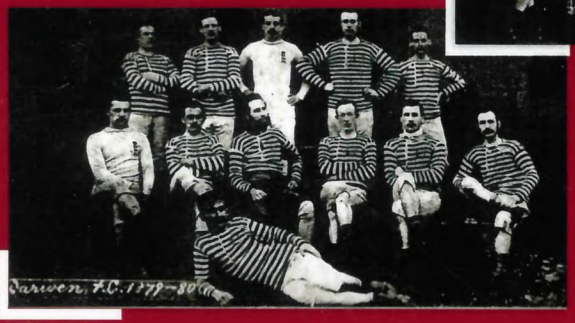
THE LANCASHIRE CUP

A complete record 1879-80 to 2006-07



Gordon Small

THE LANCASHIRE CUP

A complete record of the Lancashire FA Senior Cup 1879-80 to 2006-07

Gordon Small

A SoccerData Publication,
on behalf of the
Lancashire Football Association

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FOREWORD BY DAVID BURGESS
Chief Executive, Lancashire FA

I am absolutely delighted to have been asked to write this foreword for a publication relating to one of the country's oldest County Cup competitions, the Lancashire FA Senior Cup. It was first contested in the 1879-80 season, and is now close to entering its 130th year!

The Lancashire Football Association has a long and proud heritage, being the governing body for football in the county that has been a hotbed of the game. This continues to the present time, with the county able to boast that over one third of the current Premier League clubs have their first affiliation with the Lancashire FA.

The Senior Cup has had many guises in recent times, but back at the end of the nineteenth century it was the leading competition in the county, keeping the Association financially viable through the gate receipts that were received from the games played. The inaugural winners were Darwen FC, a club that is still going strong and that is now playing its football in the North West Counties League. Their opponents in the first Final were Blackburn Rovers FC, a club to win the cup on four consecutive occasions in the first six seasons, and a club which remains one of the leading sides in the country to this day.

Football has seen a great many changes over the years. Most recently the formation of the Premier League and the subsequent injection of large amounts of finance into the game, has had a definite effect on the status of the competition from a club's point of view. However in recent seasons the competition has had a resurgence, and in the current season twelve of the fifteen Premier League and Football League clubs which have a first affiliation to the Lancashire FA will be taking part.

The Lancashire Football Association has had to change, as has the Senior Cup competition. In the earliest days it was the only competition that was open to all the football clubs based in the county. This is in contrast to the present day when the Lancashire FA is running as many as seventeen different county cup competitions, ranging from a Youth Cup for under-12s right through to the Lancashire Senior Cup competition itself.

I am proud to be only the sixth secretary of the Association, spanning a period of 129 years, and consider it an honour to be part of the County's long and interesting football history through this excellent competition.

From the first Final at the Barley Bank ground in Darwen to the latest Final played at the Association's own facility, the County Ground in Leyland, the competition is full of history. My special thanks and congratulations go to the author Gordon Small for his meticulous work in not only recording the results and data of the competition, but also for his foresight in documenting what is a major part of the history of the Lancashire FA through the Senior Cup competition.

Enjoy the book, its statistics and its quirks, and realise the importance of this publication as part of the continuing history of the Lancashire FA.

David P Burgess
Lancashire FA Chief Executive

LFA

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Cups on display at the Jubilee Banquet of the Lancashire FA, October 1928. The Lancashire Cup towers over the Football League championship trophy (far left) and the FA Cup (next to left). The four men at the front are (left of table) Sir Charles Clegg and the Rt Hon. Lord Derby, and (right of table) Charles Sutcliffe and A Kingscott.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

The Lancashire Cup may now be seen as a relatively minor competition in the football world, but it is undoubtedly a competition that has a long and interesting history.

It was first played for in the 1879-80 season, with a Darwen v. Blackburn Rovers Final immediately capturing the imagination of the local public. During the 1880s the popularity of football grew rapidly in the towns of Lancashire, and it is with some justification that the county may be considered the birthplace of the modern game. Within ten years of the Lancashire Cup starting up, it was the Lancashire clubs that had been instrumental in forcing the acceptance of professionalism, and it was the Lancashire clubs that had been prominent in the formation of the Football League with exactly half of its original member clubs being from the county.

My own interest in the Lancashire Cup began several years ago when I was researching the history of Higher Walton FC, a village side which had briefly prospered in the early days of organised Lancashire football. I was intrigued by their exploits in the Lancashire Cup in the 1888-89 season, and subsequently I wanted to try and find out more about this once great competition. Although I was able to find some coverage of the very early seasons when Blackburn Rovers had reigned supreme, it proved quite difficult to find that much written about the majority of the seasons that the Lancashire Cup had been in existence.

I began with odd bits of information from the various club histories that were available, but I soon found that there were mistakes and that some sources were better than others. In practice the bulk of the information in this book has been compiled by my visiting almost every reference library in Lancashire to painstakingly seek out the fixtures and results from microfilmed copies of local newspapers. Later with most information having been recorded, I was able to fill some gaps by consulting the minute books and other documents stored at the Lancashire FA headquarters in Leyland.

Although this book has been many years in preparation, it would be wrong for me to claim that all the information in this book is one hundred percent accurate. In particular in the early days of the competition certain results appear to have been largely a matter of opinion. I have seen instances where three different newspapers have given three different scores for the same game, but in most of these games I have gone with what I believe to be the officially recorded score. Unfortunately there are a small number of dates of ties that I have not been able to trace.

Throughout this book I have mostly referred to the competition as the Lancashire Cup. Officially its full title is the Lancashire Football Association Challenge Cup, and this is the name that is engraved on the base of the trophy. However after 1885, when the Lancashire Junior Cup had come onto the scene, then the competition was often distinguished as the 'Senior Cup' and subsequently the Lancashire Senior Cup became its formally recognised title. When under sponsorship in the 1980s and 1990s the competition had periods as the Manx Cup and the Marsden Cup, and for the 2007-08 season it is being billed as the Lancashire 'Canterbury Senior Cup'.

There have been dozens of books written about Lancashire football clubs, but there have been very few books written about the history of Lancashire football. Hopefully this book will help fill that gap, and will be of interest to supporters of all senior Lancashire clubs as well as to football historians. As far as I am aware this is the first book to have chronicled the complete history of any county association cup competition. However early in my research I did come across a book written by Steve Carr which looked at the Birmingham Senior Cup from 1876 to 1905. Elsewhere I have listed a selection of books that have proved useful. However I would also like to thank the following people for their assistance - Peter Cullen (Bury), Tony Onslow (Everton), Stuart Hayton and Jeff Rourke (Wigan Athletic), Phil Simpson (Burnley), Chas Sumner (Chester City), John Bullen (Lancashire FA Press Officer) and Peter Holme of the National Football Museum. Finally I would like to thank Tony Brown for his encouragement in making it so easy for me to get this book published; and thank David Burgess and everyone at the Lancashire FA for their co-operation and for agreeing that this book can be considered an official publication.

While completing the book I have become a regular visitor to the Lancashire FA's headquarters and have taken on a role with them to answer some of the requests that they receive for historical information. Looking back through old correspondence I can certainly appreciate the efforts that former Lancashire FA secretary Jim Kenyon and the Challenge Cup Committee made to try and keep the competition going. Unfortunately they were not always successful, and when I started putting this book together the Lancashire Cup was in one of its periods of dormancy and appeared to be a forgotten competition. I was pleasantly surprised to see it revived for the 2004-05 season, and three years on it survives with number of participating clubs continuing to grow. There may be some way to go, but perhaps one day it will again be a 16-club competition for all the county's senior sides.

Gordon Small
October 2007

LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

SEASON	WINNER
1879-80	Darwen
1880-81	Accrington
1881-82	Blackburn Rovers
1882-83	Blackburn Rovers
1883-84	Blackburn Rovers
1884-85	Blackburn Rovers
1885-86	Bolton Wanderers
1886-87	Preston North End
1887-88	Accrington
1888-89	Accrington
1889-90	Burnley
1890-91	Bolton Wanderers
1891-92	Bury
1892-93	Preston North End
1893-94	Everton
1894-95	Preston North End
1895-96	Blackburn Rovers
1896-97	Everton
1897-98	Newton Heath
1898-99	Bury
1899-00	Preston North End
1900-01	Blackburn Rovers
1901-02	Blackburn Rovers
1902-03	Bury
1903-04	Blackburn Rovers
1904-05	Southport Central
1905-06	Bury
1906-07	Blackburn Rovers
1907-08	Oldham Athletic
1908-09	Blackburn Rovers
1909-10	Everton
1910-11	Blackburn Rovers
1911-12	Bolton Wanderers
1912-13	Manchester United
1913-14	Manchester United
1914-15	Burnley
1915-18	(no competition)
1918-19	Liverpool
1919-20	Liverpool & Man. Utd (joint winners)
1920-21	Manchester City
1921-22	Bolton Wanderers
1922-23	Manchester City
1923-24	Liverpool
1924-25	Bolton Wanderers
1925-26	Bury
1926-27	Bolton Wanderers
1927-28	Manchester City
1928-29	Manchester United
1929-30	Manchester City
1930-31	Liverpool
1931-32	Bolton Wanderers
1932-33	Liverpool
1933-34	Bolton Wanderers
1934-35	Everton
1935-36	Blackpool
1936-37	Blackpool
1937-38	Manchester United
1938-39	Bolton Wan. & Preston NE (joint)
1939-40	Everton
1940-41	Manchester United
1941-42	Blackpool
1942-43	Manchester United
1943-44	Liverpool
1944-45	Blackburn Rovers
1945-46	Manchester United
1946-47	Liverpool
1947-48	Bolton Wanderers
1948-49	Rochdale
1949-50	Burnley
1950-51	Manchester United
1951-52	Burnley
1952-53	Manchester City
1953-54	Blackpool
1954-55	Barrow
1955-56	Liverpool
1956-57	Chester
1957-58	Bury
1958-59	Liverpool
1959-60	Burnley
1960-61	Burnley
1961-62	Burnley
1962-63	(competition not completed)
1963-64	Everton
1964-65	Burnley
1965-66	Burnley
1966-67	Oldham Athletic
1967-68	Morecambe
1968-69	Manchester United
1969-70	Burnley
1970-71	Rochdale
1971-72	Burnley
1972-73	Liverpool
1973-74	Manchester City
1974-82	(no competition)
1982-83	Bury
1983-84	Blackburn Rovers
1984-85	Wigan Athletic
1985-86	Blackburn Rovers
1986-87	Bury
1987-88	Blackburn Rovers
1988-89	Bolton Wanderers
1989-90	Blackburn Rovers
1990-91	Bolton Wanderers
1991-92	Wigan Athletic
1992-93	Burnley
1993-94	Blackpool
1994-95	Blackpool
1995-96	Blackpool
1996-97	Preston North End
1997-98	(no competition)
1998-99	Wigan Athletic
1999-04	(no competition)
2004-05	Rochdale
2005-06	Oldham Athletic
2006-07	Blackburn Rovers

LANCASHIRE CUP - HONOURS BOARD

CLUB	WINNERS		FINALISTS	
Accrington	3	1880-81, 1887-88, 1888-89	1	1881-82
Accrington Stanley	0		3	1905-06, 1925-26, 1944-45
Barrow	1	1954-55	4	1951-52, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1969-70
Blackburn Olympic	0		2	1883-84, 1884-85
Blackburn Park Road	0		1	1880-81
Blackburn Rovers	17	1881-82, 1882-83, 1883-84, 1884-85, 1895-96, 1900-01, 1901-02, 1903-04, 1906-07 1908-09, 1910-11, 1944-45, 1983-84, 1985-86, 1987-88, 1989-90, 2006-07	15	1879-80, 1885-86, 1889-90, 1891-92, 1897-98, 1909-10, 1912-13, 1928-29, 1936-37, 1941-42, 1955-56, 1960-61, 1963-64, 1982-83, 1984-85
Blackpool	7	1935-36, 1936-37, 1941-42, 1953-54, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96	5	1913-14, 1924-25, 1948-49, 1989-90, 1996-97
Bolton Wanderers	12	1885-86, 1890-91, 1911-12, 1921-22, 1924-25, 1926-27, 1931-32, 1933-34, 1938-39 (joint winners), 1947-48, 1988-89, 1990-91	8	1886-87, 1892-93, 1893-94, 1898-99, 1920-21, 1932-33, 1943-44, 2006-07
Burnley	12	1889-90, 1914-15, 1949-50, 1951-52, 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1964-65, 1965-66, 1969-70, 1971-72, 1992-93	11	1899-00, 1900-01, 1901-02, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1929-30, 1940-41, 1945-46, 1956-57, 1967-68, 1985-86
Bury	8	1891-92, 1898-99, 1902-03, 1905-06, 1925-26, 1957-58, 1982-83, 1986-87	13	1895-96, 1921-22, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1934-35, 1939-40, 1946-47, 1950-51, 1972-73, 1983-84, 1992-93, 1994-95, 2004-05
Chester	1	1956-57	1	1952-53
Darwen	1	1879-80	2	1882-83, 1890-91
Everton	6	1893-94, 1896-97, 1909-10, 1934-35, 1939-40, 1963-64	4	1894-95, 1902-03, 1904-05, 1958-59
Higher Walton	0		1	1888-89
Liverpool	10	1918-19, 1919-20 (joint winners), 1923-24, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1943-44, 1946-47, 1955-56, 1958-59, 1972-73	8	1906-07, 1908-09, 1922-23, 1942-43, 1949-50, 1953-54, 1961-62, 1968-69
Manchester City	6	1920-21, 1922-23, 1927-28, 1929-30, 1952-53, 1973-74	3	1896-97, 1923-24, 1931-32
Manchester United (Newton Heath)	11	1897-98, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1919-20 (joint winners), 1928-29, 1937-38, 1940-41, 1942-43, 1945-46, 1950-51, 1968-69	4	1930-31, 1959-60, 1971-72, 1993-94
Morecambe	1	1967-68	1	1973-74
Oldham Athletic	3	1907-08, 1966-67, 2005-06	4	1918-19, 1933-34, 1954-55, 1970-71
Preston North End	6	1886-87, 1892-93, 1894-95, 1899-00, 1938-39 (joint winners), 1996-97	6	1907-08, 1957-58, 1988-89, 1990-91, 1991-92, 2005-06
Rochdale	3	1948-49, 1970-71, 2004-05	2	1914-15, 1998-99
Southport (Southport Central)	1	1904-05	4	1903-04, 1937-38, 1947-48, 1964-65
Wigan Athletic	3	1984-85, 1991-92, 1998-99	4	1935-36, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1995-96
Witton	0		1	1887-88

THE LANCASHIRE CUP

The Lancashire Football Association was formed in September 1878 with a membership of just 28 clubs. The establishment of a Lancashire FA Challenge Cup competition was considered an early priority, particularly as it was recognised that it would be a good means of raising funds for the Association. In April 1879 a special meeting of the association was held to appoint a Lancashire Cup sub-committee, and it was at this sub-committee's first meeting held in June 1879 that a set of 22 itemised rules were drawn up for a knock-out cup competition which would first take place in the 1879-80 season (see the Appendix for a copy of the original rules).

This new cup competition was to be open to all registered football clubs in the county. From a financial point of view the Lancashire FA would receive a quarter of the receipts which were taken at matches in the early rounds, but they would receive all the money taken from the Semi-Final ties and from the Final. The competition winners were to be presented with a cup, while the participating players would each be presented with medals or badges.

The first Lancashire Cup competition was already underway, when the Lancashire FA seriously set about commissioning a trophy which would be suitable for such a prestigious tournament. The specification was that the trophy should be 'massive and imposing and be calculated to excite a heavy spirit of emulation among Lancashire football players'. In February 1880 a design produced by Monk Brothers of Bolton was accepted and approved. The manufacturers had submitted a proposal for a most impressive cup standing 39 inches tall and weighing in at about 175 ounces. The initial estimated cost for the trophy was £118, but this was later to be raised to £160. With the Lancashire FA at this time not being in the best state of health financially, several members of the Lancashire FA committee agreed to make contributions to help fund the purchase of the trophy.

As described elsewhere, Darwen were to be the first winners of the Lancashire Cup, and since that opening competition it has been won by all the county's leading clubs. The Lancashire Cup has always been recognised as a fine trophy. Over the years this has been remarked in countless newspaper reports, and when displayed alongside other cups and trophies it has usually been the one to stand out.

When it first began it was a competition open to all football clubs registered with the Lancashire FA. Six years on this was no longer practical, and it became a competition only for the more senior Lancashire teams. Additional county competitions were created to cater for the growing number of smaller clubs. First there was the Lancashire Junior Cup in 1885, then the Lancashire Amateur Cup in 1893, and following this the Lancashire Junior Shield in 1906.

In practice the Lancashire Cup has had something of a troubled history, and it has gone through a great many different phases of popularity. There have been times when it has been of supreme importance to the competing clubs, but there have been other times when it has been a cup that none of the clubs have seemed that bothered about winning. In some seasons it has been a competition played for by what were the best teams in the country, but in other seasons it has been a competition played for mainly by reserve sides.

Perhaps not surprisingly the Lancashire Cup has probably been at its most important in the seasons when organised league football was not being played. In the 1880s the winning of the Lancashire Cup was seen by a Lancashire club's supporters as being just as important as the winning of the FA Cup (or the English Cup as it was then better known). However whereas the FA Cup Final was always played in London during this period, the Lancashire Cup Final was played much nearer to home and as likely as not would be against one of your club's local rivals. Ironically this was a time when the competition was beset by a series of political arguments which meant that it was not necessarily the best team in the county who were to be Lancashire Cup winners.

The Lancashire Cup also became important around the time of the two World Wars. This was again a time when the playing of organised league football was restricted. During the First World War the competition was suspended, but it then had a successful period from 1918-19 and into the early 1920s. During the Second World War the competition continued to be played, and it took on an added importance as a local cup competition when almost all football being played was regionalised. Most recently the Lancashire Cup did have some success under the guise of the Manx Cup, when it was re-vamped as a pre-season tournament.

At the beginning the players taking part in a Lancashire Cup Final were presented with silver medals in order to commemorate the occasion. There were times when gold medals were presented, and there were times when as a cost cutting exercise it was decided that no runners-up medals would be presented. Later it became the tradition that players be presented with miniature cups or tankards, and during the Second World War it was considered more practical that the players be presented with savings certificates.

A winner's medal from 1888

For many years the Lancashire FA purchased their medals from Thomas Fattorini Ltd, and when miniature cups were first presented they were obtained from Vaughtons of Birmingham. Both these companies had also been trusted to supply the Football Association with their silverware. In 1896 it was Vaughtons who were chosen to create the second FA Cup trophy, while in 1911 it was Fattorini's who created the third version of the FA Cup trophy.

Until quite recent times the Lancashire Cup was a major source of income to the Lancashire FA. In order to survive the Association was dependent on the substantial gate receipts that were received from the competition, and in particular from the money taken from the two Semi-Finals and the Final. This reliance on the Lancashire Cup may have lessened in recent years, but the continued existence of the Lancashire FA into the 2000s owes much to the playing of Lancashire Cup games. At different times the rules for the distribution of gate money have varied, and there have even been periods when the Lancashire FA has been forced to request a supplement from clubs to make up the required income.

A winner's tankard from 2007

1879-80

With association football in Lancashire still very much in its infancy, this was reflected in the limited geographical area covered by the clubs taking part in the first Lancashire Cup competition. The majority of the initial entrants were concentrated in the Blackburn - Darwen - Bolton area, while there were also a number of clubs based to the east of the county. The Manchester area was represented by just Manchester Wanderers and Middleton, but there was no representation at all from Liverpool, from Preston and the Fylde, or from the north of the county.

Many of the original entrants were church teams and village teams, but alongside them were two very familiar names - Blackburn Rovers and Bolton Wanderers.

Blackburn Rovers had been formed in 1875 and from the very start they had shown themselves to be an extremely well organised club. They were at the forefront as football grew in popularity in Lancashire, and over the years they were to be the most successful team in the Lancashire Cup competition.

Bolton Wanderers were formed in 1877. Two years on they were nowhere near as strong as Blackburn Rovers, but they were making steady progress in their primary objective of establishing themselves as the leading team in the Bolton area.

At this time it was Darwen who were Blackburn's biggest rivals. Darwen had been formed in 1872, but in the early years they had experimented with both rugby football and association football codes. However from the mid-1870s they adopted the London Football Association rules, and in 1877-78 they and Manchester were the first Lancashire clubs to take up a place in the FA Cup competition.

A little lower down the pecking order behind Blackburn and Darwen were Accrington. They had been formed as recently as 1878, but right from that first season had proved themselves to be more than worthy opponents for the other senior clubs in the county.

These four clubs could be considered the strongest clubs in the county, but there were a number of challengers. These included Blackburn Park Road, Church, Great Lever, Padiham, and Turton, who had all quickly built up reputations for themselves as good footballing sides. Although representing only a small village, Turton had been formed in 1871 and can be regarded as the county's first properly organised football club. They had drawn up a set of association football playing rules as early as 1873, and had been prominent with Blackburn Rovers and Darwen in the formation of the Lancashire FA. Having been formed in 1878, Padiham were never to achieve any great success in the Lancashire Cup, but 130 years on they are still functioning as a football club.

The First Round draw was made at the Coffee Tavern in Blackburn on August 16th 1879, with all 40 entrants going into the hat and being drawn out to play in a tie. This practice may now seem strange, but the early Lancashire Cup competitions were operated on the principle that all surviving teams went into every draw, with one team getting a bye if there was an odd number of teams. In the 1879-80 season this rule, sometimes referred to as the 'Yorkshire' method, resulted in the odd situation of there being three teams remaining in the competition at the Semi-Final stage.

The Lancashire Cup got underway with three First Round games being played on September 27th 1879, and with the remaining games being played over the next four Saturdays. When a cup draw was made, the Lancashire FA specified a completion date when all ties were expected to have been played. The first club drawn had the choice of ground where the game would be played, and it was up to the two opposing clubs to agree a date for the match to take place, as long as it was before the designated end date. At this time most football was played on a Saturday, and it was only the very big clubs who played occasional mid-week fixtures.

From the outset there were disputes between clubs over the arrangement or outcome of individual ties. The Lancashire FA soon had to instigate a dedicated Challenge Cup committee to look into these disputes, and it immediately became an important and time consuming role. The First Round tie between Enfield and Blackburn Rovers was the first to be discussed, with Rovers not wanting the tie to be played on a Saturday because they had other important fixtures. The tie between Lynwood and Bolton Olympic was the first to have the result go to an appeal. Lynwood had been 5-4 winners in what was described as a very rowdy match, but a request by the Bolton side that the match be re-played was turned down. In the Second Round Lynwood were defeated 4-3 at Lower Chapel, and this time it was them who requested that their tie be re-played. In this instance the Challenge Cup committee dictated that the match should be re-played, but in the second game it was again Lower Chapel who were the winners.

The First Round draw had included a club called Darwen St James, although by the time they played their tie at Haslingden Grane, they had changed their name to Darwen Foresters. The game resulted in a draw, but the Haslingden team did not show up for the replay, and the Challenge Cup committee had no option but to award the tie to the Foresters.

On January 1st, Accrington defeated Lower Darwen in their Third Round tie. With this match completed and won, virtually the same team turned out for a second game later that day when they drew in a club match with Manchester Wanderers.

With the cup being an open competition to all entrants, there were a number of ties which were clearly mismatches with the inevitable outcome that some big scores were recorded. This would become a feature of the early Lancashire Cup competitions. In 1879-80 Darwen were easily the most prolific goalscorers, and were twice to reach double figures in their games, winning 12-1 against Haslingden Association in the Second Round, and 11-1 against Manchester Wanderers in the Fourth Round.

It had been the general consensus that Blackburn Rovers and Darwen were the two best sides in the county, and fittingly it was these two rivals who were to win through to contest the first Final. Darwen had recorded four big victories on their way to the Final, while Blackburn Rovers had won through comfortably after surprisingly being held to a draw by Enfield in the First Round. The Lancashire FA made the decision that the Final should be played at Darwen's Barley Bank ground, much to the displeasure of the Blackburn Rovers officials. At this time the Darwen ground would appear to have been the Lancashire FA's favoured venue for hosting big games. In the 1878-79 season it had been used for the first ever Lancashire county team trial match, and shortly after it was also used for Lancashire's first representative match against North Wales.

In the weeks before the match was played there was much bickering between the two clubs. From January 1880 the Lancashire FA had introduced a new rule that for a player to qualify to play in a Lancashire Cup game he must be an established Lancashire resident. The main dispute was over the eligibility of two players - William Kirkham of Darwen and Albert 'Monkey' Hornby of Blackburn Rovers. On March 4th the Challenge Cup Committee discussed the case of Kirkham, who was Darwen born and bred but was at this time working in Leeds. On March 17th they discussed the case of Hornby, the well known sportsman who still had a house in Blackburn but because of his rugby commitments had not actually played for Rovers during the season. The Lancashire FA declared that Kirkham would be allowed to play, but they were less definite on Hornby, saying that they would make a decision after the game if he was selected. Blackburn were far from satisfied and there were threats that they would scratch from the competition. In Darwen a public meeting was held with them equally insistent that Hornby should not be allowed to play. In the event neither William Kirkham nor Monkey Hornby were to play in the match.

The Final turned out to be quite an occasion, and as a spectacle it was probably the most memorable of all Lancashire Cup Finals. The Barley Bank ground was packed to see the two local rivals find a winner, and although the crowd was given as 9,000, there were also estimates that it was well in excess of 10,000. At the time this was almost certainly the biggest crowd ever assembled for a football match played in Lancashire, and there were claims that it was the highest ever for a football match in the country. Famously the ground accommodation was improved by the addition of temporary seating in a grand stand which had been created by placing wooden school forms on top of horse drawn lorries.

The referee for the first Final was Charles Spencer of the Nottingham Forest Football Club. For many of the early Finals it became a tradition that the referee selected to officiate be a respected guest from another county association. However in the early days, perhaps just as important as the referee were the two umpires. For the first fifteen years of the Lancashire Cup's life it was the umpires who were expected to

make the decisions. Eventually this responsibility passed to the referee, with the umpires being superseded by linesmen.

On the day it was the home team Darwen who were the easy winners, but it was to prove to be their only Lancashire Cup success, while Blackburn were to go on to record many victories. It was quite possibly Darwen's greatest footballing achievement, but the 'unfriendly' rivalry between Darwen and Blackburn was to grow even more intense and would continue for several years. Both teams played with the then popular 2-2-6 formation comprising two full backs, two half backs, and six forwards (two on the right wing, two in the centre, and two on the left wing). The most famous player in the Darwen team was probably Scotsman Fergie Suter, who is often credited as being the first professional footballer in what was at this time in theory a strictly amateur game. The Darwen team also included Thomas Marshall, who just a few days earlier had made his debut as an England international, and Tot Rostron, another player who would go on to win international honours.

The actual Lancashire Cup trophy was not ready until July, but once handed over by Monk Brothers it was exhibited for public viewing in Darwen, Blackburn, Accrington, and Manchester. Subsequently it was at the Theatre Royal in Darwen on July 24th that the Lancashire Cup was presented to the victorious Darwen players and officials.

Darwen 1879-80

1880-81

The first Lancashire Cup had been a success, but for its second season there was only a small increase in the number of entrants. This time round there were to be two teams who were to scratch without actually playing a game. Manchester Wanderers scratched from their First Round tie with Clitheroe St Mary's, while Barrow Rangers having received a bye in the First Round scratched from their Second Round tie with Turton.

Among the clubs new to the competition were two with strange names - Num Nook, a team based in Accrington, and Star Of England, a team from Cloughfold. In addition to these there were three clubs who would soon become much better known - Blackburn Olympic, Everton, and Preston North End.

Blackburn Olympic had been formed in 1877, and were a relatively short-lived but credible challenge to Blackburn Rovers in a town that then had several of the county's leading teams. In 1882-83 Blackburn Olympic were to become the first northern team to win the FA Cup, and in the early 1880s they were to reach two Lancashire Cup Finals.

Everton were formed in 1878, and in the space of two years had become the leading football club in the Liverpool area. Despite this, for several years they were looked on by the Lancashire FA as little more than a junior team, and it would be quite some time before they would make any impact in the Lancashire Cup. Football was slowly growing in popularity in Liverpool, with Bootle and Liverpool Association also representing the area in this seasons Lancashire Cup.

Preston North End were at this time more used to playing rugby football, and had only made rare experiments in playing the round ball game. In their first couple of seasons Preston North End had suffered some heavy defeats, and in their first Lancashire Cup tie they were to be defeated 6-0 by Turton. Despite this start they were soon to become masters of the game, and within just a few years they would earn the nickname the 'Old Invincibles', having become the best football team in the world.

The second Lancashire Cup competition was blighted by an increase in the number of disputes, with one in particular having a major bearing on which team would be the cup winners. In each of the first two rounds, games were played with the result later being declared void, but there were also several other instances of unsuccessful appeals by clubs disgruntled at the antics of their opponents.

Newcomers Everton were one of the clubs to be involved in a dispute. In the First Round they were defeated 1-0 at Great Lever. However Everton subsequently made an appeal that 'the referee had been a member of the Great Lever club'. The Lancashire FA agreed with Everton and ruled that the result be declared void, although it was decided that the re-match should again be played at Great Lever. For this second game the Everton team received a particularly stormy reception, and although they were soundly defeated 7-1 by the Bolton side, both they and the neutral referee were pleased to get away from the area as soon as possible.

As had been the case the previous season, Blackburn Rovers and Darwen still reigned supreme in being rated the best two footballing sides in the county. In the 1880-81 season lady luck had decreed that they would meet at the Fourth Round stage. Unfortunately following on from the eventful 1879-80 Final the two clubs were still very much in dispute. In the 1880 close season Darwen had lost their most celebrated player Fergie Suter to their local rivals, and with this defection the relationship between the clubs had further deteriorated. In November 1880 Blackburn Rovers had entertained Darwen in a club match that had been full of violent clashes and which had finally had to be abandoned early in the second half when an angry mob took to the pitch.

With this background, Blackburn Rovers and Darwen angered the Lancashire FA by failing to agree a suitable date for their tie. The two clubs were already in disagreement over the playing of a friendly game, and with this complication their Lancashire Cup game was arranged then called off on a couple of occasions. Naturally enough the Lancashire FA became impatient, but it must have been with great reluctance that they took the decision to expel both clubs from the Lancashire Cup competition, as their own loss of income was certain to be very significant.

The expulsion of Blackburn Rovers and Darwen may have devalued the competition, but it gave the county's third best team Accrington the opportunity to stake a claim that they were worthy challengers to the big two.

With only two teams winning through from the Fourth Round there was no need for any Semi-Final matches to be played, and it was Accrington and Blackburn Park Road who took up their places in the Lancashire Cup Final. Despite Darwen having been in dispute with the Lancashire FA, the Final was again played at their Barley Bank ground. As an act of defiance, on the same day Blackburn Rovers presented a rival attraction with them playing a prestige friendly against Scottish club Dumbarton, which must have undoubtedly reduced the attendance at Darwen. Continuing the dispute, a few weeks later Blackburn Rovers resigned as members of the Lancashire FA, but it was to be a short break from the ranks and before too long they were back in the fold.

Inevitably the match did not attract as big a crowd as the previous years Final, but in the event the 1880-81 Final was to prove just as exciting and controversial a meeting. The favourites Accrington defeated Blackburn Park Road in an exciting 10 goal thriller, but it was a match that did not last the full 90 minutes. Throughout Accrington had always had the upper hand, but as they scored at one end the Park Road men refused to give up and kept coming back with a goal at the other end. With just three minutes remaining, and with Accrington leading 5-4, they scored a sixth goal which effectively sealed the win. The Blackburn Park Road players were adamant that this goal had been offside, but with no sympathy from the match officials, they walked off the field of play. The Accrington players stayed on the pitch to complete the match, and were declared the winners of the tie. Naturally there was subsequently an appeal to the Cup Committee, but this was not entertained and Accrington remained 1880-81 Lancashire Cup winners.

The Final was again refereed by a notable footballing personality - on this occasion William Pierce-Dix of the Sheffield FA, who had been the referee in the FA Cup Final at the Kennington Oval only two weeks earlier. Mr Pierce-Dix was very much a traditionalist, and was a leading FA official who

just a few years later would come into conflict with the big Lancashire clubs as he spoke out in his opposition to the acceptance of professionalism. It is reported that for this game he 'came out to officiate arrayed in a tall hat and frock coat, and with his umbrella up' and 'that he did not stray from the touchline'. He subsequently defended his odd behaviour by explaining that he had a later engagement and only had one set of clothes with him. On the face of it Blackburn Park Road would appear to have grounds for their dissatisfaction at his refereeing. In the first half when Accrington scored their second goal it was apparent that Accrington had committed a clear foul. However before the umpires could blow their whistles to stop the play, it was said that the Mr Pierce-Dix had already awarded the goal.

Although it was only the second Lancashire Cup Final there were two players with previous experience. The Accrington side included Roger Howorth and William Latham, who had both played for Blackburn Rovers in the 1879-80 Final.

Accrington 1880-81

1881-82

The attraction of football in Lancashire was now steadily growing. Two years on the clubs taking part were now representing a far greater geographic range, while the number of church teams had been much reduced.

Unfortunately this season there was to be one important team who scratched from the competition without playing a game. The Blackburn Rovers - Darwen feud was still very much in progress, and with Blackburn Rovers now back in favour with the Lancashire FA, Darwen showed their disdain by scratching from the competition to give their First Round opponents Turton a walk-over. Strangely Darwen were now in the position of being the first winners of the Lancashire Cup, but in the following two seasons they had yet to complete a defence of the trophy.

The 1881-82 competition saw an increase in the number of big scores. In particular Blackburn Rovers made it abundantly clear that they were back and that they were determined to win possession of the Lancashire Cup. In the First Round they faced Kirkham, then probably the best team in the Blackpool and Fylde area, and defeated them by a resounding 14-0 scoreline. In the Second Round they were 10-1 winners away to Clitheroe, and following this were 7-0 winners over Accrington Wanderers and 6-0 winners over Church. At the Semi-Final stage they defeated emerging local rivals Blackburn Olympic by a convincing 6-1 scoreline.

In fact Blackburn's 14-0 victory was not the biggest score in the competition, with Enfield defeating Water 15-1 in another First Round tie. This was a new record score for the competition, and it was to be village team Water's one and only game in the Lancashire Cup.

Bolton Wanderers and Preston North End were both now growing in stature. In the First Round Bolton defeated the previous years Finalists Blackburn Park Road by a remarkable 10-4 scoreline. After this they defeated Low Moor 13-0 and Lower Darwen 9-0, before themselves losing 7-3 to the reigning Cup holders Accrington. In the First Round Preston did extremely well to get a draw at Bootle, who were then challenging Everton as the top club side in the Liverpool area. Perhaps the result was not quite so surprising as it was Bootle's second match of the day, with them having already defeated Blackburn Law in an FA Cup tie. However Preston proved their worth by defeating Bootle 2-1 in the replay, and in the Second Round they recorded a decisive 12-3 victory over the Stacksteads Working Men team. Following this they were then brought back down to earth in the Third Round with an 8-0 defeat at Turton.

In choosing a venue for the Final, the Lancashire FA decided that it was time for some missionary work. The Final was played at the Burnley Cricket Club ground, which then included a football playing field which would later become better known as Turf Moor. It was a move by the Lancashire FA to promote the game in Burnley, which was then considered a football backwater with no senior club yet established to challenge the might of neighbouring towns Blackburn and Accrington.

The game resulted in a 3-1 win for Blackburn over the holders Accrington. Unfortunately the Final did not turn out to be a good advertisement for football, and was described as a poor game which was played in miserable weather. This was the first win by Blackburn Rovers, who were well on their way to establishing themselves as the best club side in the country. Their dominance in the Lancashire Cup was clear as they had won the competition with an aggregate score of 46 goals to 3. Just a few weeks earlier Rovers had become the first Lancashire team to have reached the FA Cup Final, but they had been defeated 1-0 by the Old Etonians in the match played at the Kennington Oval.

The successful Blackburn Rovers side included several familiar names. Incredibly goalkeeper Roger Howorth had now played in all three Lancashire Cup Finals, and having switched his allegiance back to Blackburn, he was a winner for the second year running. The controversial Fergie Suter was also collecting his second winners medal, after his previous success with Darwen in the cup's inaugural season. As well as Howorth, Blackburn had five other survivors from their team which had lost out to Darwen in that 1879-80 Final.

1882-83

The number of entrants to the Lancashire Cup was continuing to grow, and significantly this season one of the clubs new to the competition was Burnley. The staging of the 1881-82 Lancashire Cup Final in the town must have had the desired effect, as shortly after this Burnley FC had been formed from the existing Burnley Rovers rugby club. Burnley were one of a number of clubs formed in the town in the early 1880s, and for a while there was quite some rivalry with Burnley Union Star over which was the top team in the area. Burnley took a few seasons to establish themselves, and at first made little impact in the Lancashire Cup, but they were eventually to go on and win it a great many times.

This season saw the formation of a Liverpool & District Football Association, and the first playing of a Liverpool Cup competition. The leading Liverpool clubs retained membership of the Lancashire FA and continued to play in the Lancashire Cup, but at this time Liverpool like Manchester was not considered a hotbed of Lancashire football. The first Liverpool Cup winners were Bootle, who had been heavily defeated by Bolton Olympic in the First Round of the Lancashire Cup. Another Liverpool club, Liverpool Ramblers were one of two teams to scratch from this season's Lancashire Cup without actually playing a game.

There were again some big scores in the First Round, with no less than nine instances of teams reaching double figures in their victories over lesser opposition. The highest scorers were Livesey Grasshoppers who defeated Liverpool St Peters 17-0, and high scores were to continue right through the rounds. In the First Round Witton had been 10-0 winners over Oswaldtwistle St Pauls, but in the Second Round they were 23-0 winners over Liverpool Stanley. This was to be the highest score ever recorded in a Lancashire Cup tie.

Quite often games were played under the most adverse of weather conditions. It was reported that when Rossendale were the 3-1 winners at Hurst there was nine inches of snow on the pitch.

This season saw one of the stranger rules of the Lancashire Cup competition invoked on two separate occasions. The rule was that when a tie had resulted in two drawn games and did not yet have a winner, then both teams would be allowed to progress through to the next round in order to complete their tie. In the Second Round Darcy Lever and Halliwell had played two drawn games, before Halliwell were victorious in what had become a Third Round match. In

the Third Round Darwen St Johns and Livesey Grasshoppers played two drawn games, before Livesey won the Fourth Round match, only for the result to be declared void with Darwen St Johns passing through to the Fifth Round.

For the second time in its short history there were three teams remaining in the competition at the Semi-Final stage. The one game necessary saw Blackburn Rovers defeat Bolton Wanderers by a 4-1 scoreline, while Darwen were the team to receive a bye.

This meant that the Final would be between Blackburn Rovers and Darwen. Having failed to defend the Lancashire Cup in the previous two seasons, it was perhaps appropriate that the two teams should meet again at this stage. As in 1879-80 it was decided that the Final should be played at the Barley Bank ground, again giving Darwen the home advantage. It was the third time in four seasons that the Final had been played on the Darwen ground.

Three years on Blackburn were now clearly superior to their former rivals, yet in the Final Darwen gave a good account of themselves and were only defeated by a narrow 3-2 score. After their absence from the competition, Darwen had done extremely well and had certainly made a spirited attempt to regain the trophy.

After their defeat, Darwen made a protest about the eligibility of certain Blackburn players, but the result was allowed to stand. Later Darwen submitted a claim for damage done to their ground after the Semi-Final and Final matches, and this time they were successful in getting some satisfaction with their claim paid in full.

This victory meant that Blackburn Rovers had become the first team to win the cup twice. For the second season running they had been dominant in the competition, and this time they had won it with an aggregate score of 39 goals against 5 goals conceded.

On the same day that the Lancashire Cup Final was played, another Lancashire team was involved in an even more important game in London. Blackburn Olympic were creating history at the Kennington Oval in becoming the first northern side to be winners of the FA Cup. In the Final they defeated Old Etonians 2-1 after extra time, to put themselves one up on their town rivals Blackburn Rovers. At this time the crowds given for football matches were estimates, but it is interesting to note that the FA Cup Final attracted a crowd of about 7,000, while the less important Lancashire Cup Final attracted a crowd of about 12,000.

In practice Blackburn Olympic could also claim that they had not been defeated in the Lancashire Cup. In the First Round they had beaten Padiham Church 11-0, but then subsequently had been expelled from the competition for playing an ineligible player.

The Lancashire Cup was a trophy which was often put on display for the public to view. A few weeks after Blackburn Rovers victory it was exhibited in Preston for the first time. Football was just starting to attract interest in the Preston area, but within a couple of years Preston North End would be overhauling Blackburn Rovers for the status of being top club in the county.

1883-84

There was again an increase in the number of teams entering for the Lancashire Cup. This time the First Round was to comprise 42 ties, although in practice one tie was not to be played, with Preston St Josephs scratching from the competition without actually taking to the field.

This season there were nine instances of teams scoring 10 goals or more in the competition. The biggest scorers were Darwen who defeated Bootle 14-1 in the First Round, and Witton who defeated Burnley Olympic 13-1 in the Second Round. These may have been the two biggest scorelines, but the Second Round game between Bolton Olympic and Golborne could easily have produced an even bigger one. The Bolton side were 6-0 up after just 20 minutes, at which time the Golborne team walked off the pitch in protest that they considered that the sixth goal had been offside. In practice Golborne may have departed the field to spare their blushes, as it was suggested that had the game continued Bolton Olympic would have gone on to score at least 20 to 30 goals.

Dramatic scorelines were certainly eye-catching, but games against lowly opposition were not really to the liking of the bigger clubs. On occasions they were being forced to play on pitches that were not in the best of conditions, while there was always the possibility that their players could be badly injured by the actions of lesser skilled opposition. More importantly games against village sides were not likely to attract very big crowds, and they were considered a lost opportunity for the club to host a game against more attractive opposition which would guarantee a big attendance. A solution to the problem was found, with the big clubs often choosing to field their reserve team in the early rounds in those games when the result was considered a foregone conclusion.

Blackburn Olympic were one of the clubs that utilised their reserves in Lancashire Cup ties. In the First Round their second eleven were 7-2 winners over Newton Heath, and in the Second Round they were 4-0 winners over Darwen Ramblers. Of course the playing of a reserve side did have its risks, and there were instances of apparent shock results with the smaller clubs winning through on the day. In the First Round the Preston North End reserve side had entertained Lower Darwen, only to be defeated by a 2-0 scoreline.

In the Fifth Round Blackburn Rovers were held to a 0-0 home draw by Accrington. This 'blemish' on their record brought an end to an incredible run of 20 consecutive wins in Lancashire Cup games. However Rovers were soon to make amends, and in the replay at Accrington they were victors by a comprehensive 6-3 scoreline.

For the third time in five years, the Yorkshire method draw structure resulted in there being three teams at the Semi-Final stage. To emphasise the footballing strength of Blackburn all three were from that town - Blackburn Olympic, Blackburn Rovers, and Witton.

Blackburn Rovers were drawn to play Witton, while Blackburn Olympic were granted a bye. It had been an outstanding Lancashire Cup season for Witton, although they had not been drawn against any of the big boys. They had defeated Blackpool St Johns 9-0, Burnley Olympic 13-1, Bolton Olympic 4-0, Oswaldtwistle Rovers 3-0, and Astley Bridge 2-1 after a replay. With Rovers having home advantage, Witton pulled off a big surprise in holding them to a draw. For the replay Rovers were again given home advantage, and in this second game they were easy 4-1 winners.

The two Finalists were Blackburn Olympic and Blackburn Rovers, then probably the two best teams in the county. Olympic had been the 1882-83 FA Cup winners, while Rovers had already reached the 1883-84 Final and would soon be ensuring that the trophy was brought back to Blackburn.

The Final was played at Preston North End's Deepdale ground, and it transpired that there was an interesting reaction to the two teams. Earlier in the season Preston had been expelled from the FA Cup for their apparent acceptance of professionalism, and many Prestonians believed that Blackburn Rovers had not helped their cause and had actually gained from their misfortune. This resulted in there being a lot of bad feeling towards the Rovers players, while it was said that the Olympic team were welcomed with deafening applause and shouts.

The referee for this game was Mr RM Sloan of Bootle. He was the first Lancashire man to have been the referee in a Lancashire Cup Final. The game resulted in a 1-1 draw. Olympic had taken the lead after 15 minutes, only for Rovers to even things with a very late goal.

For the first time a Lancashire Cup Final replay was necessary. However following the crowd reaction against them, the Blackburn Rovers committee made it clear that they were determined never again to play in Preston. A number of possible venues were considered, with the Lancashire FA favouring that the replay be played at Whalley Range in an attempt to help popularise the game in Manchester. The Whalley Range ground was the home of the Manchester Rugby Club, which was at this time considered to be the best football ground in the Manchester area.

In the end there was some familiarity in the ground chosen, as it was again the Barley Bank ground at Darwen. The replay took place four weeks later with Rovers now having the added distinction of having been crowned the 1883-84 FA Cup winners. It proved to be another close game between the two Blackburn sides, with Rovers triumphing by a 2-1 scoreline. At this time Blackburn Rovers were still persevering with a 2-2-6 formation, while Blackburn Olympic had adopted the new 2-3-5 formation then growing in popularity. It was the fourth time in five years that the Final had been decided at the Barley Bank ground. Surprisingly after a 10,000 crowd at Deepdale, the

attendance was only 6,000. It was said that the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway company had arranged special trains from all over the county, but these had not been very well patronised.

Blackburn Rovers now saw themselves as the top team in the country. They had been most aggrieved that Blackburn Olympic had managed to capture the FA Cup ahead of them, but they were now in the enviable position of being both FA Cup holders and Lancashire Cup holders.

Blackburn Rovers 1883-84

1884-85

Each year adjustments were made to the Lancashire Cup rules. In particular the rules for qualification were continually being refined and updated. From this season it was stated that all participating players must be Lancashire born, or must have lived in the county for at least 10 years. Furthermore it was ruled that even Lancashire born players must have been living in the county for the preceding two years.

Following the creation of a Liverpool & District Football Association in 1882, this season saw the formation of a Manchester & District Football Association. Like their Liverpool counterparts, the leading Manchester clubs continued to retain membership of the Lancashire FA, while also supporting their own local association. The first winners of the Manchester & District Cup were Hurst, a team defeated by Preston North End in the First Round of the Lancashire Cup.

This season would also see the formation of the British Football Association, a short-lived organisation that was effective in forcing the Football Association to accept the existence of professionalism. The BFA was formed in October 1884 at a meeting in Blackburn, with an initial membership of 14 Lancashire clubs and with an executive comprised of representatives from Accrington, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Clitheroe, Great Lever, and Preston North End. Conspicuous by their absence were Blackburn Olympic, Blackburn Rovers, and Darwen, who were accused of hypocrisy in that they were seen not to be supporting the adoption of professionalism. In subsequent meetings the membership of the BFA grew, but as the season progressed the national mood changed and in July 1885 it was finally ratified by the FA that a controlled professionalism was acceptable.

This was the one and only season that the number of Lancashire Cup entrants exceeded 100, although four teams did not actually play a game in the competition. In the First Round, Darwen Ramblers and Halliwell Jubilee were both expelled, while Liverpool Ramblers scratched for the second time in three years. Having received a walk over in the First Round, Accrington then scratched rather than play their Second Round tie with Blackburn Olympic.

With another big increase in the number of teams participating, the number of mismatched fixtures was also increasing. On this occasion the First Round included eight double figure scores - with the highest goalscorers being Blackburn Olympic who defeated Leigh 18-0, Darwen Old Wanderers who defeated the interestingly named Scout Bottom Blue Ribbon 17-2, and Lower Darwen who defeated Spring Hill 15-0.

During the 1884-85 season there was a minor change made to ensure that the competition would complete to a more satisfactory finish. It was no longer considered appropriate that there be an odd number of teams left in the latter stages of the competition. In order to stop this from happening and to ensure that there would be exactly eight teams left at the Quarter Final stage, the previous round was drawn so that the requisite number of teams would be given byes. At the Fourth Round stage the 13 surviving teams went into the draw, with 5 ties being drawn and with 3 teams receiving byes.

For the second season running, the Lancashire Cup Final was to be contested by the two local rivals, Blackburn Olympic and Blackburn Rovers. Although Olympic had not been as successful as Rovers, this was an ideal opportunity for them to redress the balance with their neighbours.

Arguably Blackburn Rovers could count themselves a little fortunate to have reached the Final. In their Semi-Final they had played Bolton Wanderers at Darwen's Barley Bank ground, and had been soundly beaten 5-1. However Blackburn did not accept the defeat lightly, and they were subsequently awarded the tie as Bolton were found to have fielded no less than five players who did not meet the Lancashire Cup's strict residential qualification.

The Final was again played at Preston's Deepdale ground, despite Blackburn Rovers concerns from the previous season, and it was reported that there was again a much better reception for the Blackburn Olympic players. Unlike in 1883-84 there was no need for a replay, with Blackburn Rovers winning 2-1 to maintain the upper hand over their town rivals.

It was the fourth year in succession that Blackburn Rovers had been Lancashire Cup winners, and just two weeks earlier they had become FA Cup winners for the second year running. On the face of it Rovers could quite rightly claim to be the best team in the country, but with the acceptance of professionalism now being inevitable, two of their Lancashire neighbours had other ideas. Both Bolton Wanderers and Preston North End had assembled strong teams through the importation of a number of choice Scottish players. Although using ineligible players, Bolton had already been able to defeat Blackburn heavily in their void Lancashire Cup tie. Due to their disputes Blackburn had not played Preston for over a year, but as the pioneers of professionalism, North End were now quite confident that they were really the best team in the country.

There were four Rovers men who had played in all four winning sides - Jimmy Brown, Jimmy Douglas, Hugh McIntyre, and Fergie Suter. Two Blackburn players, Jimmy Brown and Fergie Suter were actually both playing in their fifth Lancashire Cup Finals, having survived from the 1879-80 season when they had been on opposing sides. One of the Blackburn Olympic players picking up a losers medal was ex-Blackburn Rovers man Joe Beverley, who had gained two winners medals when playing for his former club.

1885-86

The 1885-86 season would see the first major change to the Lancashire Cup, with it becoming a competition only for the more 'senior' clubs in membership of the Lancashire FA. From this season onwards it was often referred to as the Lancashire Senior Cup, and this was a name that would be used almost exclusively in later years.

For six seasons the Lancashire Cup had been a competition which was open to any club which held membership of the Lancashire FA. This had been appropriate at the beginning, but in the intervening years the game had changed a great deal. Realistically it had become impractical that all Lancashire clubs be placed in the same competition on equal terms. With professionalism now legal and being widely adopted, the bigger clubs were getting better organised, and their playing standards were far superior to the growing number of village sides and minor clubs who were also members of the Lancashire FA.

From the very start there had been mismatches between opposing sides, but with the number of entrants having exceeded 100 the situation was getting farcical. For the 1885-86 competition there were actually only 99 entrants. This slight decrease in numbers from the previous season was not due to a lack of interest, but had been because some clubs were said to be reserving themselves for a proposed junior competition.

In August this new competition, the Lancashire Junior Cup, was established, to be contested by the growing number of 'junior' clubs in membership of the Lancashire FA. When the First Round draws were made that month, 53 clubs were placed in the Lancashire Cup, while 59 clubs were placed in the

Lancashire Junior Cup. With decisions having to be made on which clubs went into which competition there were some surprises and not everyone was satisfied. In particular Everton were aggrieved to have been placed in the Lancashire Junior Cup, when they quite rightly believed themselves to be up with the leading clubs in the county. Perhaps they were being punished as they had declined to take part in the 1883-84 and 1884-85 Lancashire Cup competitions. However there was a practical way for them to quickly regain a place in the senior competition, with the Lancashire Junior Cup rules stating that the Winners and losing Finalists could apply to take part in the following season's Lancashire Cup.

Although there were 53 entrants, there were again teams who scratched without playing a game. In the First Round Burnley scratched to Padiham, and in the Second Round Great Lever, who had received a bye in the First Round, scratched to Preston North End.

Interestingly the elimination of some of the weaker sides did not see the end of one-sided scorelines, and in 1885-86 there were another five instances of a winning team scoring 10 goals or more. Particularly impressive was the Bacup-based side Irwell Springs, who defeated Eccles 10-0 in the First Round, then defeated Burnley Union Star 12-0 in the Second Round, before themselves going out in the Third Round when they were beaten 3-2 at home by Church.

The 1885-86 competition was another to be affected by the politics of squabbles between participating clubs. The problem came following the Semi-Final draw which paired Blackburn Rovers against Preston North End. The two clubs had become bitter rivals, with Blackburn reluctantly having to accept that North End had taken over from them as the best club side in the country.

Blackburn Rovers had easily been the leading club in the seven seasons that the Lancashire Cup had been contested, yet they had also been the club at the centre of most of the competitions major disputes. Their hostile rivalry with Darwen had been followed by a fierce rivalry with Blackburn Olympic, and now they were embroiled in another intense rivalry with Preston North End. Of course still to come in the future would be their rivalry with Burnley.

When the draw was made Preston North End were unbeaten in the 28 games that they had played in the 1885-86 season. They had already beaten Blackburn on two occasions, and fielding their full strength team would have been expected to defeat their neighbours without too much trouble yet again. Unfortunately Preston could not field their strongest side in Lancashire Cup games as it would have included up to six players who were ineligible to play because they did not meet the strict qualification rules. On the one hand Blackburn recognised that they were probably not good enough to beat Preston's best side, but they knew they would have a good chance against a weakened side. On the other hand Preston did not want to lose their long unbeaten run through having to field a weakened team.

For a time there was a stalemate. There was talk of the two clubs fielding their best sides in a friendly match at Preston, while at the same time their reserve sides would play out the Lancashire Cup tie at Blackburn. This was not acceptable to the Lancashire FA, who could see that this would not be that good for the attendance and their own finances. Eventually it was agreed that the teams would meet, and on the day Preston North End chose to field their full strength side, but let it be known that they were scratching from the competition. The game was played as a friendly match, and it was said that at half time the Preston officials handed over the written confirmation that they were scratching from the Lancashire Cup. The playing of a friendly was acceptable to the Lancashire FA, as they were allowed to keep the gate receipts as if it had been a Lancashire Cup match. Preston ran out 4-2 winners to preserve their long unbeaten run, and they eventually went 54 games unbeaten in 1885-86, before surprisingly being defeated at home by Accrington. When the season ended they had won 59 of the 64 games they had played, and they were truly the 'Invincibles'.

With Blackburn effectively having been given a walk over at the Semi-Final stage, their opponents in the Final were Bolton Wanderers. Bolton had always been a useful side, but in practice they had been overshadowed by Blackburn Rovers and the other leading Lancashire teams. Over the years they had gained supremacy over the other Bolton area sides like Great Lever and Halliwell, and recently they had been particularly active in strengthening their side by importing players from Scotland and elsewhere.

Bolton had been prolific goalscorers on the way to the Final. In the Third Round they had completely over-run Blackburn Olympic, defeating the previous seasons Finalists by an astonishing 11-2 scoreline.

As in the 1883-84 season, the Lancashire FA were keen to have the Lancashire Cup Final played in Manchester in order to try and popularise the game there. However they were again unsuccessful in finding a suitable venue, and eventually it was decided that the Final should be played at Deepdale. It was the third year running that Preston North End's ground had been chosen to host the Lancashire Cup Final. Despite the Semi-Final fiasco, the North End directors must have still been on good terms with the Lancashire FA. On the day the ground was said to be in splendid condition, and it was Bolton Wanderers who rose to the occasion by running out 1-0 winners, thus adding a new name to the cup and stopping Blackburn from recording their fifth successive Lancashire Cup Final victory.

Blackburn may have lost their hold of the Lancashire Cup, but they had already become FA Cup holders. Exactly one week before the Lancashire Cup Final, they had defeated West Bromwich Albion in a replay to retain the FA Cup for the third successive season.

Bolton Wanderers 1885-86

1886-87

With the Lancashire Junior Cup now established and considered a success, the Lancashire Cup could be re-structured to become a truly senior competition. For 1886-87 it was trimmed down to just 32 teams, an ideal number for a knock-out competition. Interestingly Everton and Newton Heath were two teams still being refused permission to play in the Lancashire Cup. They were both informed that they would need to prove their ability before they would be allowed to take up a place.

In practice three First Round ties were not to be satisfactorily completed. With Hurst scratching, Great Lever got a bye, but the other two ties did not get completed as a result of clubs being expelled. An interesting tie had seen the two town rivals Burnley and Burnley Union Star being paired together. A draw was played out on Union Star's Rake Head ground, but following this Burnley Union Star were suspended for a month by the Lancashire FA because they had fielded an unregistered professional. Burnley were gaining the ascendancy over Union Star, but there would continue to be some rivalry between the two teams for a few more years to come.

Turton were the other team to be expelled from the competition. After defeating Lower Darwen 9-2, they fell foul of the Lancashire FA and were suspended from playing any football for two weeks. Lower Darwen were re-instated and were given a walk-over to the Second Round, but they were again to be defeated by a 9-2 scoreline.

This season the Lancashire FA introduced the principle that all games in one round should be played on the same day. In practice this was not always strictly enforced, and there continued to be instances when clubs were allowed to play their games on other more convenient dates.

The two Finalists were Bolton Wanderers and Preston North End. In what was the eighth playing of the Lancashire

Cup competition, it was the first time that there had not been at least one Blackburn-based side in the Final.

Bolton Wanderers had opened their defence of the Lancashire Cup with a comprehensive 14-0 win over Wigan. This was followed by a 5-1 win at Burnley, but in the Third Round they were put in the strange situation of having to defeat two different teams in order to progress in the competition. First they were 8-1 winners at Rossendale, but subsequently the east Lancashire club were expelled from the competition with their Second Round opponents Irwell Springs being re-instated. Ten days later Bolton were 4-1 winners over Irwell Springs in a game reported to have taken place in a snowstorm and a hurricane. The Irwell Springs players walked off the pitch early in the second half and the game was abandoned, but the result was allowed to stand with Bolton going on to defeat Padiham 4-1 in the Semi-Final.

Preston had coasted through to the Final. In the First Round they had humiliated the mighty Blackburn Rovers with a 7-1 victory, and continuing in this vein had then brushed aside Lower Darwen 9-2, Loveclough 12-0, and in the Semi-Final Witton 12-0.

Bolton Wanderers won the toss for the choice of ground, and the Final was played at their Pikes Lane ground. The official crowd was 14,500, although it was said that many broke into the ground without paying. Over 1,100 supporters had travelled from Preston on special trains, but having recently been knocked out of the FA Cup at the Semi-Final stage, Preston went in to the game on something of a low. Having home advantage Bolton were rated favourites to retain the trophy, but on the day Preston turned in a fine performance and were 3-0 winners.

Preston North End had long made claims that they were the top team in the country, yet this was their first success in any major competition. In each of their four most recent seasons they had put together impressive sequences of results, and defeats had come to them only rarely. They had certainly been dominant in their winning of the Lancashire Cup with an aggregate score of 43 goals with just 3 conceded.

The winning of the Lancashire Cup was an important event for the club. On returning to Preston following the victory, the team were met by large crowds, with the town centre being brought to a standstill. A few weeks later a presentation night was held at the town's Public Hall, with bands playing and full entertainment. The architect of Preston's success Major Sudell, gave a speech saying that Preston were effectively 'Champions of the Football World', and would continue to be for many years to come.

1887-88

For the second year running the number of entrants was restricted to 32. However back in the competition were Everton. For two years they had been slighted by the Lancashire FA, and had been forced to play in the Lancashire Junior Cup with the minnows. In practice they had not treated the junior competition as a priority, but at the 1887 AGM of the Lancashire FA it had been carried unanimously that Everton be again allowed to compete in the Lancashire Cup. They were without doubt the top club side in the Liverpool area, and were now back on an equal footing with the other leading Lancashire clubs.

Another team back in the competition was the Accrington-based side Bell's Temperance. They had been Lancashire Junior Cup Winners in both 1885-86 and 1886-87, and by achieving this had been deemed good enough to have earned a place in the senior competition with the big boys. In the event they were very soon brought back down to earth, suffering a 10-1 defeat at Bolton Wanderers, and they were not to play in the Lancashire Cup again.

The principle that all games in a round be played the same day continued, and this time it was better observed. All 14 First Round ties were played and completed in one day. There were not 16 games because Burnley had received a walk over due to Great Lever scratching, while Preston North End had received a walk over due to Bootle scratching. Bootle had only scratched on the day of the game, and a friendly match was actually played with Preston defeating Bootle 6-2.

The exclusion of the smaller clubs may have meant that the likelihood of one-sided high-scoring matches was much reduced. However the precarious nature of the game was such that a once successful club could very soon find themselves in financial trouble and go into a fast decline. In 1887-88 a good example of this was Lower Darwen, who had been playing in the Lancashire Cup each season since it had first started. In the First Round, they were drawn away to Accrington and were soundly defeated 20-1. It was only the second time that a side had scored twenty or more goals in a Lancashire Cup match, but Lower Darwen would suffer several more heavy defeats before they were finally wound up as a football club in January 1888.

Preston continued their unbeaten run from the previous season, and looked to be virtually unstoppable. In the Third Round they had been fully tested with an away game against Blackburn Rovers, but it was again the North Enders who had the upper hand over their east Lancashire rivals. Preston went on to reach their second successive Final with a decisive 6-1 win over Darwen Old Wanderers.

The other Finalists were Accrington, who following their 20-1 success in the First Round, had gone on to win 4-0 at Higher Walton and 4-0 at Darwen, before defeating Witton 2-1 in controversial circumstances in a Semi-Final replay after the two teams had played out a 1-1 draw in the rather strange surroundings of Fleetwood.

The Lancashire FA made the decision that the Final should be played at Blackburn Rovers Leamington Street ground. However the Preston North End officials were adamant that they would not play there 'because of the attitude of Blackburn spectators on a previous occasion'. There was a stalemate, with the Lancashire FA not wanting to back down and show that they could be influenced by one of their member clubs. They insisted that the Final would go ahead as planned at Blackburn and in order to attract as big a crowd as possible continued to advertise the game as such. On the day Preston North End did not turn up, with Accrington being declared Lancashire Cup winners after they had kicked off and scored a token goal against a non-existent opposition.

Although it had turned into something of a farce, the Lancashire FA had made alternative arrangements. In anticipation of Preston not showing up, they had paid losing Semi-Finalists Witton a sum of £10 to make themselves available for a match against Accrington. Thus with Accrington freshly crowned as Lancashire Cup winners, it was this match that actually took place. In front of a modest 2,000 crowd Witton rose to the occasion, humbling 'champions' Accrington by a 4-0 scoreline.

The Lancashire FA refused to recognise Preston North End as Runners-Up, and arranged a game between the two losing Semi-Finalists to play off for the Finalists medals. In front of a very small crowd Witton were again successful, defeating Darwen Old Wanderers by 2 goals to nil. It is interesting to note that long defunct Witton had an impressive record in the early years of the Lancashire Cup. They were formed in 1874 as Blackburn St Marks and had played in the first ever competition, then as Witton they had subsequently been Semi-Finalists on four occasions - 1881-82, 1883-84, 1886-87, and 1887-88. They had also produced several big scores, most notably that 23-0 victory over Liverpool Stanley in 1882-83, which was a record for the competition.

In the aftermath Preston North End were suspended by the Lancashire FA until December 31st 1888. However this action was not endorsed by the Football Association, and the Lancashire FA subsequently rescinded the suspension, although it was stated that they considered Preston North End's conduct to be objectionable (see the Appendix for a copy of a letter sent by the Lancashire FA to the member clubs). Subsequently the Lancashire FA went on to make an amendment to their rules to state that 'no club shall be allowed to scratch from their competitions in the Semi-Final or Final ties'. Fearing that the same problematic situation could also happen in their own FA Cup competition, the Football Association also changed their rules to have a similar wording.

1888-89

This was a landmark season in football history as it saw the formation of the Football League. This new competition had twelve founder members, and six of them were from Lancashire - Accrington, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Everton, and Preston North End. It was a season when Preston would confirm their superiority over their rivals by completing the 'double'. Famously North End were Football League Champions without losing a game, and were the FA

Cup winners without conceding a goal. Unfortunately they could not add the Lancashire Cup to their list of honours as following on from them scratching in the 1887-88 season they were not among the entrants in 1888-89.

Fearing that they were being left behind, some of the other leading clubs in the country banded together to play in the 'Combination', a competition which it was hoped would be a rival to the Football League. In practice it was not as well organised, and unlike the Football League it did not require that all the teams were obliged to play each other on a home and away basis. There were six Lancashire clubs involved in the Combination - Blackburn Olympic, Bootle, Darwen, Halliwell, South Shore, and Newton Heath. The first five were Lancashire Cup participants, while Newton Heath were this season playing in the Lancashire Junior Cup. In the event the Combination failed to complete satisfactorily, but in 1889-90 it was transformed into the slightly more successful Football Alliance.

For 1888-89 the number of clubs participating in the Lancashire Cup had been further reduced to 24, and for the first time ever there were no teams which scratched from the competition once it was underway. Preston may have been absent, but with the weaker teams now also missing, the overall standard of football being played in the Lancashire Cup had improved. For the first time since 1880-81 there were no one-sided mismatches with a team scoring 10 goals or more against weak opposition.

With 24 clubs the competition was played out with a First Round of 8 ties, and with the other 8 teams receiving a bye into the Second Round. Even though certain clubs now had league commitments, the Lancashire Cup was considered sufficiently important that particular dates were set aside for cup ties. Although there were exceptions, this principle continued to be observed for another nine years as all clubs became involved in organised league football.

It proved to be a strange season for the Lancashire Cup, with many of the stronger teams being eliminated by lesser opposition. Often playing league games and cup games on the same day, the Football League teams sometimes fielded their reserve sides in the early Lancashire Cup rounds. Combination side Halliwell were able to take full advantage, and in the first two rounds they were 8-1 winners over Bolton Wanderers, and 9-4 winners over Burnley.

However the big surprise of the competition was Higher Walton, a village team based just outside Preston. In the First Round they had pulled off a great result in winning 2-1 at Blackburn Olympic, although by this time the Blackburn side were well on the decline. In the Third Round they were drawn at home to the mighty Blackburn Rovers, and it looked as if their cup run was over. Although Blackburn fielded their reserve side, the Waltonians were able to get a creditable 3-3 draw. For the replay Blackburn decided to take no chances and fielded a near full strength side, yet against all expectations it was Higher Walton who ran out 5-4 winners in a most exciting game. Higher Walton were rewarded with a Semi-Final tie against Everton, and in another great team performance they were able to defeat the Liverpool side by a 3-1 scoreline.

In reaching the Final Higher Walton had defeated two of the best teams in the country. Their opponents in the Final were Accrington, another Football League side. Accrington had experienced a much easier route to the Final, but had not had things all their own way. At the Third Round stage they had a real battle with Halliwell, eventually winning 1-0 on the Bolton clubs ground after the first game had been abandoned. In their Semi-Final tie they were held to a draw by the little fancied Haydock, but in the replay they proved themselves to be vastly superior to their opponents with a winning 6-1 scoreline.

Accrington were strong favourites to retain the Lancashire Cup. They definitely had the advantage over Higher Walton, having actually knocked them out of the Lancashire Cup in each of the previous two seasons, and these were both by big scores and both on Higher Walton's own ground. However against all expectations there was very little to separate the two teams in the Final. A 1-1 draw was played out at Blackburn's Leamington Street ground, but in the replay Accrington were victors by a 1-0 scoreline at Deepdale. The Accrington goal came from a scrimmage, then a common method of scoring and a reminder that 1880s association football still had much in common with the rugby code.

The Accrington side included Joe Lofthouse who was collecting his third winning medal, to add to his one losers medal. Six other Accrington players were picking up their second winners medals, although this was the first Lancashire Cup Final that they had actually played in.

Accrington were claiming the trophy for the third time in ten years, yet to many people all their three wins had been devalued due to the actions of other teams. Their 1880-81 success had been in a season when favourites Blackburn Rovers and Darwen had both been expelled, while their 1887-88 and 1888-89 victories had been in seasons when favourites Preston North End had refused to play while they were in dispute with the Lancashire FA. Their 1888-89 success was further scorned because it was said that they had not had to meet any other leading teams in winning the competition.

For the second year running the Lancashire FA did not benefit greatly from the gate receipts taken at the Lancashire Cup Final. Although two games had been played, the presence of a small club like Higher Walton in the Final did not bring in the crowds. Strangely it was a season when the receipts from the Lancashire Junior Cup Final greatly exceeded the receipts from the Lancashire 'Senior' Cup Final.

1889-90

The number of teams accepted in the Lancashire Cup was further whittled down. It had been hoped that the number could be reduced to 16, with those in the competition being the previous seasons four Semi-Finalists plus 12 others selected by the Lancashire FA. This may not yet have happened, but from this season the Lancashire Cup established a structure which would continue to be followed until the 1905-06 season. Irrespective of the number of entrants, the Lancashire Cup would have a First Round to be contested by 16 teams. These would comprise the leading 12 teams in the county as chosen by the Lancashire FA, plus another 4 teams which would need to earn their place by winning through from one or more qualifying rounds. The number of qualifying round games that were necessary would be dependent on the precise number of teams which had been accepted into the competition.

Still missing from the entrants were Preston North End, who would again finish the season as champions of the Football League, while another notable absentee was Blackburn Olympic. The Blackburn side had failed to keep pace with neighbours Blackburn Rovers and the other leading Lancashire sides, and with them missing out on a Football League place their days were soon numbered.

With the Football League having been a success the previous season, in 1889-90 more teams were involved in some form of organised league football. The Football Alliance could be looked on as a slightly inferior version of the Football League, while closer to home the Lancashire League had been formed for those clubs not yet ready to travel great distances to play their football.

The first qualifying game played was between South Shore and Turton. These two teams had to play one extra game just to reach a second qualifying round where the winner joined the other seven qualifiers who had been granted a bye. This seems especially harsh as two teams, Hurst and Manchester, had already applied to scratch from the competition, but their requests had been refused.

Once the competition was underway it soon became apparent that big scores were still prevalent. In their qualifying round match Irwell Springs defeated Manchester by a 19-0 scoreline, only for Irwell Springs themselves then to lose their First Round match 11-1 away to Blackburn Rovers. One wonders what the score might have been had Blackburn Rovers been drawn to play Manchester.

Blackburn were to experience some good fortune after their big victory over Irwell Springs. In the Second Round they were losing 2-1 to Everton when the game was abandoned. Two weeks later, on the same day that Blackburn were playing Everton in a league game, the two club's reserve sides re-contested the Lancashire Cup tie and produced a 0-0 draw. One month on the two clubs fielded their first choice teams in the replay, with Blackburn running out easy 5-1 winners. In their Semi-Final Blackburn were held to a draw by Darwen, but then were 2-0 winners in the replay.

Blackburn's opponents in the Final were Burnley. Until this season Burnley had performed miserably in the Lancashire Cup. They had been playing in the competition for seven seasons and incredibly had failed to win a single game. They broke their duck with a 4-3 home win over Rossendale, and then ran riot with a 15-0 home win over Haydock. In the Semi-

Final they were drawn to play Higher Walton, a team who had once again performed exceptionally well to prove that the previous season should not be considered a fluke. However this time round Higher Walton were no match for a Football League side and Burnley were comprehensive 7-0 winners.

The Lancashire FA made the decision that 'subject to approval' the Final would be played at Whalley Range, but yet again the Final did not take place at a Manchester ground. On this occasion the Final was played at Accrington, in front of a 15,000 crowd with record gate receipts being taken. It was reported that hundreds of people were turned away, and that the ground was that full that there were numerous encroachments on the pitch.

Blackburn went into the match the strong favourites. They were already FA Cup holders, having produced an impressive 6-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday in the Final played at the Kennington Oval a month earlier. Despite this, it was Burnley who completed their transformation in the Lancashire Cup with a goal in each half to record a comfortable 2-0 victory over the Rovers. Blackburn subsequently made a protest that the game should be re-played due to the crowd's encroachments, but this was soon withdrawn.

This was an important victory for Burnley. It was their first major club honour, and it had come in a season in which they had struggled at the bottom of the Football League with them having to apply for re-election. Significantly the success had come at the expense of Blackburn, the most honoured of the Lancashire clubs and the team who would be their closest rivals in the coming years.

Playing at centre forward for Blackburn Rovers was Jack Southworth, who was picking up his second losers medal. A versatile player, his first Lancashire Cup Final appearance had been when playing as goalkeeper for Blackburn Olympic in the 1884-85 season.

Burnley 1889-90

1890-91

There was a further pruning down in numbers in the Lancashire Cup. However there was one familiar name back involved. After missing two complete seasons, Preston North End were welcomed back into the competition.

A qualifying round was again played. It comprised three games, with the winners going through to a First Round where they joined the other 12 teams who had been granted exemption. This resulted in the strange situation that there were 15 clubs in the First Round draw. Preston North End were the team given a bye, which meant that their return to playing in the Lancashire Cup was to be delayed a little longer.

This season Darwen were to prove that they were by no means a spent force. They reached the Lancashire Cup Final by defeating three Football League teams. They began with an impressive 3-2 away win over holders Burnley, and then in the Second Round were 2-1 winners over Accrington. Their Semi-Final tie was against Preston North End, and again it was Darwen who rose to the occasion with a 2-1 victory over a still formidable Preston side.

Their opponents in the Final were Bolton Wanderers. In the Second Round Bolton had defeated Everton by a comprehensive 6-0 scoreline. This was especially creditable as Everton were at this time well on their way to take the Football League championship from Preston. Bolton then had a 2-0 Semi-Final win over Blackburn Rovers, to keep up their good run of results against Rovers in Lancashire Cup games. This victory meant that Bolton had now defeated Everton the current Football League Champions, and Blackburn the current FA Cup holders, in reaching the Lancashire Cup Final. It was the second year running that Blackburn had been FA Cup winners, and they had now been FA Cup winners five times in eight seasons.

The Lancashire FA made yet another attempt to get the Lancashire Cup Final played in Manchester, but this time it did not happen due to an objection by Newton Heath. Eventually the game was played at Everton's Anfield Road ground, then a new venue for a Lancashire Cup Final. However the crowd totalled just 7,000, and it was commented that the interest from the Liverpool public had been virtually nil due to there having been a shilling gate. The game itself was rather one-sided, with Bolton Wanderers proving too strong for a Darwen side who were not at their best. Bolton had been able to build up a comfortable 3-0 lead, only for Darwen to then get a consolation goal just one minute from the end.

It was the second time that Bolton Wanderers had been Lancashire Cup winners. Inside Forward Jimmy Brogan was the only survivor from their 1885-86 season winning side, and he had also picked up a losers medal with them in the 1886-87 season.

1891-92

The administration of football had improved significantly. Just three years after the Football League had been formed, it was now the case that all clubs that were competing in the Lancashire Cup were now playing in some form of organised league football. Seven teams were members of the Football League, three teams were members of the Football Alliance, while the remaining seven teams were all playing in the Lancashire League.

Despite there being another reduction in numbers this season there were three teams new to the competition who would all go on to great success and who would all eventually become Lancashire Cup winners.

First there was Bury, who had been formed in 1885. They were a very ambitious club, having been Lancashire Junior Cup winners in the 1889-90 season and Lancashire League Champions in 1890-91. Bury were to have another excellent season, and would go on to retain the Lancashire League Championship in 1891-92.

Second there was Blackpool, who had been Lancashire Junior Cup winners in both 1887-88 and 1890-91. In 1890-91 they had been runners-up to Bury in the Lancashire League, and they would again fill this position in the 1891-92 season. For many seasons they would have a fierce rivalry with fellow Blackpool side South Shore, but in 1899 the two clubs would merge to form a stronger Blackpool club.

The third of these teams was Ardwick, who had been Manchester & District Cup Winners and Lancashire Junior Cup Finalists in the 1890-91 season. They had been elected to the Football Alliance for the 1891-92 season, and in 1894 would be transformed into Manchester City.

With 17 teams in the competition, there was a requirement for a Qualifying Round match, with Rossendale running out 4-1 winners at Witton. The First Round included two games where the venue had been switched due to a financial consideration. Higher Walton conceded home advantage to Blackburn Rovers, while South Shore conceded home advantage to Everton. Perhaps not too surprisingly, in both instances it was the new home team who progressed into the Second Round.

Bury proved to be a great success in their debut Lancashire Cup season. They were 3-2 winners at Newton Heath, 4-0 home winners over Accrington, then 2-0 winners over Everton in their Semi-Final match played at Preston.

Meeting them in the Final were Blackburn Rovers. After defeating Higher Walton, they had been 3-2 winners over Bolton to gain some revenge for their recent series of Lancashire Cup defeats to the Wanderers. In their Semi-Final they were up against old rivals Darwen, and surprisingly they were first held to a draw on their home ground, before winning the replay played at Darwen on Good Friday by 3 goals to 2.

The Final was played at Preston's Deepdale ground, attracting a 12,000 crowd which was said to have been the biggest attendance at Preston for quite some time. In the first half Bury held their own against the mighty Blackburn Rovers,

with it being reported that they were particularly strong in defence. In the second half Bury's forwards made their mark on the game, with Conway and Spence scoring a goal apiece to pull off an unexpected 2-0 victory over the Football League side.

Although it was Bury's first ever season in the Lancashire Cup, their winning side included several players who had already experienced some success in the competition. In particular three of their players, Bob Conway, Luther Pemberton, and Arthur Wilkinson had all picked up winners medals while playing for their previous club Accrington.

Like Preston's first win in 1886-87, this first Bury win was received with much rejoicement by the town as a whole. As many as ten special trains had transported Bury supporters to Preston for the Final, and on the players return to Bury the town centre streets were packed out with people wanting to celebrate the club's great achievement. To further add to the occasion, the story goes that this was the game when Bury gained their nickname, the 'Shakers'. It was coined by their then Chairman-Manager Mr JT Ingham, who when questioned about his teams chances against the mighty Blackburn Rovers was reported to have replied 'We Shall Shake 'Em. In fact we are the Shakers'.

The 1891-92 Lancashire Cup competition had been completed with only 17 games needing to be played. This was quite a contrast to just seven years earlier in the 1884-85 season, when as may as 110 games had been necessary before the winning team could be determined.

Bury 1891-92

1892-93

Football was continuing to get better organised. For the 1892-93 season the Football League had been expanded by the creation of a Second Division, with the rival Football Alliance effectively being made redundant. With this development Lancashire had maintained its position as the country's leading footballing county, with 7 clubs now playing in the First Division, and with 3 clubs playing in the Second Division.

The strength of football in the county was further illustrated by the Lancashire League, which could claim to contain many of the better teams playing outside the Football League. For this season the Lancashire League had submitted a written request that all their member clubs be allowed to play in the Lancashire Cup competition. This was accepted, which meant that after there being several years when the number of entrants to the Lancashire Cup had been reduced, this time there was a sizeable increase.

The 24 clubs in the competition comprised the 10 Football League clubs, 13 Lancashire League clubs, plus Witton who had just lost their place in the Lancashire League. To accommodate the additional clubs, the qualifying competition was extended to 12 clubs, with four survivors from this stage earning themselves a place in the First Round draw alongside the remaining 12 clubs which had been given exemption.

Newcomers to the Lancashire Cup were two recently formed Liverpool teams - Liverpool and Liverpool Caledonians. Both were apparently ambitious clubs in that they had already made attempts to join the Football League ranks for the 1892-93 season.

Liverpool had been formed earlier in 1892 following a disagreement between the Everton directors and the owner of Everton's Anfield Road ground, John Houlding. The outcome was that Houlding had formed a new Liverpool club to take over the residency of Anfield, while Everton had now re-located to nearby Goodison Park. Liverpool were immediately to be a successful club, and were Lancashire League Champions in their very first season. In the Lancashire Cup they were victorious over Southport Central, West Manchester, and Darwen, and then their interest in the competition was brought to an end by Bootle, the club they were about to replace as one of the two leading teams in Liverpool.

The Liverpool Caledonians application to join the Football League had in fact been treated with greater respect by the member clubs than that of Liverpool. Despite this the Caledonians were to be a very short-lived club, and this season they failed to complete their fixtures in the Lancashire League. They played just one Lancashire Cup game, losing 3-2 at home to South Shore after extra time had been played.

Southport Central were another team new to the competition. They had been formed in June 1888, and were following in the footsteps of an earlier Southport club which had played in the Lancashire Cup in the 1880s.

Unfortunately there was one casualty early in the competition, with Witton scratching from their Qualifying Round 2 match to give Rossendale a walk over into the First Round. In practice Witton had scratched without the consent of the Lancashire FA, which meant that they were then suspended by the Football Association. However this was all academic, as the Witton club had actually disbanded before the season had started. It was a sad end for the Blackburn side. In the first ten years of the Lancashire Cup they had been one of the most successful clubs participating, but their fortunes had quickly changed with them losing their place in the Lancashire League at the end of the 1891-92 season.

Lancashire Cup holders Bury began their defence of the trophy with a comfortable 4-0 win over Newton Heath. In the Second Round they were rewarded with a home tie against their close neighbours Bolton Wanderers. The game caught the local public's attention, with reports of there being anything from 16,000 to 20,000 present at a ground which was said to have a capacity of just 12,000. With such a crush, there were several pitch encroachments, and following a particularly nasty incident between Bolton's Jimmy Turner and Bury's Arthur Wilkinson the crowd grew more and more incensed. When a supporter came on the pitch and attacked Turner, control was lost and with about one hour of the match completed it had to be abandoned. Although Bolton were leading 3-1, the Lancashire FA decided that the result should not stand and ruled that the game should be re-played at Bolton. Justice was done in this second game, with Bolton winning through by a 1-0 scoreline.

On the same day that the Bury game was abandoned, Preston North End were 3-0 winners over Everton. Again it was reported that there were spectators on the pitch, and again the Lancashire FA ruled that a second match should be played. The newspapers could see no good reason for this, and the game was re-played without a change of venue. Second time round Preston were comfortable 5-1 winners over the Liverpool side. In the Semi-Finals Preston played Bootle at the neutral Anfield Road ground. Preston again showed themselves to be in great form, and on the hour mark they had built up a 6-0 lead over their opponents. However Bootle did not give up, and in a seven minute spell pulled the score back to 6-4 with over 15 minutes of the match still remaining. A great fight back, but Preston were able to hold on to take up their place in the Final.

It was Bolton Wanderers and Preston North End who would contest the Final. This was a repeat of the 1886-87 Final when Preston had become Lancashire Cup winners for the first time. It was the first of many occasions that a Lancashire Cup Final would be played at Blackburn's Ewood Park ground, then quickly being developed following Rovers re-location from Leamington Street. As in the previous Final, Preston were the victors, with Jimmy Ross scoring both the goals in a 2-0 victory. Watched by just 4,000, it was described in the newspapers as a poor match, with Bolton being particularly disappointing on the day. There was one piece of excitement with the ball bursting during the game, although this was not really that rare an occurrence in football matches during this era.

Preston still had several members of the 'Old Invincibles' team in their line-up, with George Drummond, Jack Gordon, Jimmy Ross, and Nick Ross all having picked up

Lancashire Cup winners medals for Preston in the 1886-87 season. In goal for Preston was former Bolton Wanderers player Jimmy Trainer, who had earned a winners medal when playing for the Trotters in the 1885-86 season. In the 1886-87 Final he had been in the Bolton side that had been easily defeated by Preston.

Preston ended the season as Football League Division One runners-up, which meant that they had finished in one of the top two places in each of the first five seasons of the Football League's existence. They had been the top club in the county for much of the last 10 years, yet this was only the second time that they had been Lancashire Cup winners. Results in other games suggested that Preston could easily have dominated the competition during this period in the same way that Blackburn Rovers had in the early 1880s. However on a couple of occasions Preston had paid the price of fielding a weakened team with them being eliminated by inferior opposition. Later there were four seasons when they were at the peak of their skills that the politics of the game had interfered with them scratching or being absent from the competition.

1893-94

This season saw the demise of another team which had once had some success in the competition. In the first qualifying round Higher Walton were comprehensively beaten 11-0 by Rossendale. Just a few years earlier Higher Walton had been Lancashire Cup Finalists and Lancashire League Champions, but now they were on hard times and were playing in the Preston & District League. Hardly a senior competition, they were well out of their depth in the Lancashire Cup and just over a year later would be wound up as a football club.

Rossendale followed their 11-0 success by playing in a second 11-goal tie, winning by an amazing 6-5 scoreline at Fairfield. In the First Round they were 4-2 winners at Ardwick, to avenge a close defeat to the Manchester club in the previous season. After these successes their run was brought to a halt by Accrington who defeated them 5-0 in the Second Round.

The other big score at the qualifying stage was West Manchester's 10-0 defeat of Barrow. West Manchester, who played their home games in the Old Trafford area of the city, were facing a team struggling due to the costs of travelling from their location well away from the other Lancashire clubs. Barrow's financial position was to become even more precarious, and just a month later they were forced to resign their place in the Lancashire League.

In the First Round Bury were 6-0 winners over Accrington. However subsequently Accrington protested that Bury had played an ineligible player, and following this the Lancashire FA ruled that the game should be re-played. Ten days later the teams met for a second time at Bury's Gigg Lane ground, and on this occasion there was a complete turnaround with Accrington being the surprising winners by a 2-1 scoreline.

Another First Round match saw the two Finalists of the previous season, Bolton Wanderers and Preston North End, paired together. The re-match was played at Bolton's Pikes Lane ground, and the home side were able to get some revenge for their defeat of the previous season. They were 4-1 winners over a Preston side now definitely going into decline. Bolton themselves were also having a difficult season, but in the Lancashire Cup they were in good form with later victories over Darwen and Accrington enabling them to reach a second successive Final.

The other Finalists were Everton. In the first two rounds they had been 7-1 winners over Newton Heath and then 5-0 winners over Burnley, and in their Semi-Final they had defeated Blackburn Rovers 4-3 in a game played on the Manchester Athletic Ground at Fallowfield. Since the formation of the Football League, Everton had been one of the best club sides in the country, but so far they had failed to make their mark in the Lancashire Cup.

Having previously made several unsuccessful attempts to get a Lancashire Cup Final played in Manchester, the Lancashire FA were at last able to find a suitable venue, with the game being played at Ardwick's Hyde Road ground. Everton were the team expected to win, but in the first half they were disappointing, and at the interval it was Bolton who had scored the only goal of the match. In the second half Everton came back to prove their worth, with goals coming from Edgar Chadwick and Abe Hartley to complete what was considered a popular win.

The Everton side included two players who were already in possession of Lancashire Cup winners medals, and both were ex-Preston players. Billy Stewart was picking up his second winners medal in consecutive seasons, while Bob Howarth was a former 'Old Invincible' who had been a member of Preston's 1886-87 winning side.

It was the first time that Everton had been Lancashire Cup winners, and it was the first time that a club from either of the county's two biggest cities Liverpool or Manchester had won the trophy. Although Liverpool and Manchester clubs had their own local area association cup competitions, the Lancashire Cup was undoubtedly still the more important trophy to win.

Like Blackburn Rovers in the 1884-85 season, Everton had actually become Lancashire Cup winners despite having already lost a game in the competition. In the Second Round they had been defeated 2-1 at home by Burnley. This game had been played in continuous rain, and there were protests made about the state of the pitch. The Lancashire FA ordered that the game should be re-played again at Everton, and in this second game which coincidently was also played in rainy conditions the home side were 5-0 winners.

It was the second season running that Bolton had been losing Lancashire Cup Finalists. In 1893-94 they were also defeated FA Cup Finalists, losing this game 4-1 to Notts County in the Final played at Everton's newly established Goodison Park ground.

1894-95

Playing in the Lancashire Cup for the first time were Stockport County. Geographically in Cheshire, but now playing in the Lancashire League, this gave them the necessary qualification to take up a place in the neighbouring county competition. As such Stockport were to be the first of many clubs from outside the county boundaries to participate in the Lancashire Cup.

Another name new to the competition was Manchester City. Formed in 1880, they had been known as Ardwick since 1887 and had been playing in the Lancashire Cup since the 1891-92 season. However at the end of the 1893-94 season the Ardwick club was declared bankrupt, only for them to be immediately resurrected under the new name Manchester City.

At the Semi-Final stage Everton and Liverpool had met for the first time in a Lancashire Cup tie. The game was played at Goodison Park in front of a crowd of over 35,000, with Everton running out 1-0 winners to reach the Final.

The 1894-95 Lancashire Cup Final saw the 1892-93 winners Preston North End playing the 1893-94 winners Everton. The days of Preston North End dominating English football were now over, but they had still been most impressive on their route to the Final. A 3-1 win at Bury was followed by a 7-0 win over Manchester City, and in the Semi-Final Preston were 6-1 winners over Accrington.

Preston's 7-0 win over Manchester City was to have repercussions. On the same day Manchester City had also played a Football League game, and Preston's 7-0 Lancashire Cup victory had actually been over the Manchester City reserve side. The game was described as being 'unworthy of comment', with Preston said to have toyed with the opposition. The Lancashire FA were not impressed, and at their next AGM they changed the Lancashire Cup rules to state 'that a club must play their full strength team in all cup ties'. Over the years this was a rule which would be broken many times, with the offending clubs often being faced with an appropriate fine.

The Final was played at Ewood Park, with Preston scoring a goal in each half to record a 2-0 victory over the Merseysiders. The attendance of 8,000 was considered poor, with the low crowd later blamed on the fact that the Lancashire FA had made an increase in entrance prices for the game.

This was the third occasion that Preston North End had been Lancashire Cup winners, with only Blackburn Rovers now having a better record than them in the competition. Preston's previous success had come just two years earlier, but in the interim they had gone through a worrying period when the club could quite easily have gone into liquidation. The situation was saved with Preston North End becoming a limited company, and in 1894-95 there had been a great improvement in their playing record.

With their off-field problems, there had also been major team changes in the two years since their previous Lancashire Cup win. However still in the Preston side was Jimmy Trainer, who was now playing in his fourth Lancashire Cup Final, and this was his third appearance in a winning side.

1895-96

Making their first appearance in the Lancashire Cup were Stalybridge Rovers. Like Stockport County, they were a club from outside the county accepted as entrants because they were playing their football in the Lancashire League. Stalybridge began well with a 7-1 win over Clitheroe, but a close defeat away to Nelson meant that they failed to survive the qualifying rounds.

In the First Round Accrington were defeated 12-0 at Darwen. It was yet another instance of a formerly great club being humbled once they had fallen on hard times. Accrington had been three times winners of the Lancashire Cup, and had been members of the Football League for the first five seasons of its existence. Easily the poorest supported of Lancashire's Football League teams, in 1893 they had opted for a move to the Lancashire League, but in October 1895 finances were such that they had been forced to resign from this league. Surprisingly they did not also scratch from the Lancashire Cup, and three months later it was a very weak Accrington side that was fielded against Darwen in what turned out to be the clubs last ever competitive match. However in the season that Accrington were falling by the wayside, another club Accrington Stanley were beginning to get established in the town.

Following on from their 12 goal victory, Darwen were themselves humbled by a 5-1 home defeat to Bury in the Second Round. At the Semi-Final stage Bury were drawn to play Nelson, a team who had won through from the qualifying round stage. Nelson were able to hold Bury to a draw, but in the replay the Lancashire Leaguers were soundly defeated 5-1 by the Bury men.

Bury's opponents in the Final were Blackburn Rovers. Blackburn's progress through the rounds had seen them defeat Liverpool and Manchester City, before they had beaten Burnley in a Semi-Final replay. It was the first Final appearance for both teams since the 1891-92 season, when Bury had been the victors by a 2-0 scoreline.

The Final was played at Bolton's Burnden Park ground, with the game ending in a 1-1 draw, as had the two Semi-Finals. After scoring a first half goal the Lancashire Cup had looked to be heading back to Bury, only for Blackburn to equalise with a very late goal. Although the weather was said to be against there being a big attendance, interest was such that it was still the highest crowd at a Lancashire Cup Final for six years,

The replay took place three weeks later on the same ground. This time the game was played in almost tropical weather, with the attendance and gate receipts being the highest to date for a Lancashire Cup Final. The official attendance was given as 17,597, but there were newspaper reports saying that at the start of the second half the crowd was in excess of 25,000. On the day Blackburn Rovers turned in one of their best performances of the season and were convincing 2-0 winners.

This was Blackburn Rovers fifth success in the Lancashire Cup, and it brought to an end a run of three Finals in which they had gone away with only the losers medals. It was the first time they had won the cup since their four consecutive victories in the early 1880s, and was perfect revenge for their defeat by Bury in the 1891-92 Final.

1896-97

The pairing of Lancashire League teams against Football League teams had yet to produce any real surprises in Lancashire Cup ties, but this season there was very nearly a major shock. In the First Round Chorley were drawn to play cup holders Blackburn Rovers, and the non-leaguers were to put up a spirited fight before losing out in a third meeting between the teams. After drawing 3-3 at Chorley when the crowd had invaded the pitch at the end to stop the game continuing into extra time, there had then been a 2-2 draw at Blackburn when the home side had put in a particularly poor performance. Some cynical Blackburn supporters were reported to have said that Rovers had been playing these games purely for the extra gate money that they would receive. In the run up to the second replay which was played at Bolton's Burnden Park, Chorley's players did some special training at Lytham while the Blackburn team were reported to be doing extra training at Ribchester. This time the result went to form, with Blackburn winning through by a 3-1 scoreline.

In the next round Blackburn were defeated 1-0 by Manchester City. Then a Second Division side, City were to make their way to the Lancashire Cup Final by defeating three Division One teams. In the First Round they had defeated Bury 1-0, and in their Semi-Final they were 2-1 winners over Bolton Wanderers. It was the 18th season that the Lancashire Cup had been played, yet this was the first time that a Manchester club had ever reached the Final.

The other Finalists were Everton, who had won their Semi-Final with a 5-1 victory over Burnley. Everton were strong favourites to win the cup, and in the event Manchester City could not raise their game to defeat a fourth Division One side. Everton were 2-0 winners, although they did not play particularly well in what was described as an uneventful Final played in windy conditions.

It was the second time that Everton had been Lancashire Cup winners, and it was three years since their last success. They had managed to keep a relatively settled side, with six players picking up their second winners medals as Everton players - Richard Boyle, Edgar Chadwick, Abe Hartley, Johnny Holt, Alf Milward, and Billy Stewart.

1897-98

This was the first season that a club from the Lancashire Combination was to play in the Lancashire Cup, with former Lancashire League team Fleetwood Rangers among the entrants. At this time the Lancashire Combination was considered to be inferior to the Lancashire League, but after a disappointing 1896-97 season Fleetwood Rangers had been forced to make the move.

It had been five years since a club had last been forced to scratch from the Lancashire Cup, but this season there were two casualties. In the first qualifying round Rossendale scratched to give Fairfield a walk over into the next round. Subsequently Fairfield were themselves disbanded as a football club, with them scratching from the second qualifying round to give Fleetwood Rangers a walk over into the competition proper.

The First Round saw an interesting re-match, with Chorley being drawn at home to play Blackburn Rovers for the second successive season. Chorley were again able to put up a good performance, but this time it took Rovers just one game to defeat the Lancashire League side with them securing a 6-3 away victory.

Before their First Round home game with Darwen, Lancashire Cup holders Everton requested that they be allowed to field a weakened team, or that they be allowed to scratch. The Lancashire FA refused these requests, but the Everton officials were obviously not happy with the decision. In the event Everton were 3-1 winners, but in the next round they were defeated 2-1 at home by Bolton Wanderers.

For the second year running there was a Manchester team in the Lancashire Cup Final. This time it was Newton Heath, who had actually defeated their neighbours Manchester City on their way to the Final in front of a 15,000 crowd. They had followed this up with a great result in the Semi-Finals when they had defeated Bolton Wanderers by a 4-1 scoreline.

The other Finalists were Blackburn Rovers, who were making their 10th appearance in a Lancashire Cup Final. It was a close match, but it was underdogs Newton Heath who were victorious with a 2-1 win over a Blackburn side that had been weakened by injuries. Realistically Blackburn were not the team they had once been, and at the end of the season they were relegated to join Newton Heath as a Second Division club.

This was the first time that a team from the Second Division had been Lancashire Cup winners, and it was a welcome success for Newton Heath, who had previously failed to make any great impact in the competition. A few weeks later a celebratory dinner was held in Manchester, with the players being presented with their medals after which they were entertained with a smoking concert taking place.

1898-99

This season there was one important name missing from the Lancashire Cup competition, with Everton having declined to take up a place. This was perhaps no real surprise as over the years they had often been in disagreement with the Lancashire FA on the rules for playing Lancashire Cup ties. However although not playing in the Lancashire Cup, Everton did continue to participate in the Liverpool & District Cup and in 1898-99 were once again winners of this competition.

The 1898-99 season was to see a small but significant change. At the request of the Football League sides it was agreed that Lancashire Cup ties in the First and Second Rounds did not need to be played on a Saturday. This was confirmation that the competition had now lost some of its prestige, with the leading clubs making the point that they would definitely prefer to play a league game on a Saturday rather than them having to play in a Lancashire Cup tie. For the time being games in the qualifying rounds were still scheduled to be played on a Saturday, as were the Semi-Final and Final ties towards the end of the season.

Newton Heath began their defence of the trophy with a 5-0 home win over Darwen, but in the Second Round they themselves were subjected to a heavy defeat, losing 6-1 away to Blackburn.

The Lancashire Cup Final was to be contested by two local rivals, Bolton Wanderers and Bury. However rather than play on a neutral ground, Bury had accepted a £50 inducement that the game would be played at Bolton's Burnden Park. Interestingly it was recorded that the two Finalists would be allowed just 20 complimentary tickets each for the big game.

In the event the size of the crowd was very disappointing, with just 3,946 turning out for a game between the two neighbours. This was a pairing which not many years earlier would have been virtually guaranteed to have attracted a full house. It was strange that just three weeks earlier Bury had played Preston North End in a Semi-Final on the same ground, and the crowd had been about 8,000. Possibly the home supporters had lost interest in their side, as Bolton were heading for their first ever relegation from the top division of the Football League. In the event giving up ground advantage did not do Bury any harm and they were 3-1 winners over the Trotters.

It was the second time that Bury had been Lancashire Cup winners, with their first success having been seven years earlier when they were still a Lancashire League side. George Ross was the only survivor from their 1891-92 winning side, and he was also one of four Bury players to have faced Blackburn in 1895-96 when they had been defeated Finalists.

1899-1900

After a one year absence Everton were allowed back into the Lancashire Cup, although interestingly there were two votes against them returning. Evidently the decision of the Lancashire FA to allow Lancashire Cup ties to be played on week day afternoons was much more to their liking. Actually following on from the 1898-99 decision that Lancashire Cup ties in the first two rounds could be played in midweek, this was now extended to also include the Semi-Final matches.

This season the qualifying competition was much reduced with just six teams going into the draw to decide which four would go through to meet the twelve teams given exemption to the First Round. In one of the Qualifying Round games Blackpool were 3-1 winners over their near neighbours South Shore. Just three months later the two clubs were to merge, with the amalgamated club setting up their base at South Shore's Bloomfield Road ground.

For the second season running Chorley were one of the teams given exemption to the First Round, and for the fourth year in succession they were able to put up a good show against a Football League team. Their opponents were Darwen, and again it took a Football League side three games to defeat non-leaguers Chorley. The two teams drew 1-1 at Darwen, then 1-1 at Chorley in a match that was abandoned three minutes into extra time. The third meeting took place on neutral territory at Blackburn's Ewood Park ground, with Darwen running out 2-0 winners over the plucky Lancashire League side.

The First Round tie between Wigan County and Southport Central went to three games before the seaside team were 5-0 victors in a second replay on their own ground. A heavy defeat in this game was perhaps no surprise, as it was reported that Wigan had been able to field a side of only 9 players that day. Southport Central went on to defeat Newton Heath in the Second Round, which meant that at long last a Lancashire League team had managed to win through against Football League opposition.

Attendances were reported to be well down on previous seasons, with many games reported to have generated little interest among supporters.

The two Finalists were Preston North End and Burnley, with Preston winning the toss of a coin to choose to play the Final at their Deepdale ground. It was reported that interest from Burnley was high, with 600 supporters having travelled to the match on a special train. Despite this, the size of the crowd was again a little disappointing, although it was actually slightly higher than the average crowd that Preston had been getting for league games during the season. In a close game Preston were 1-0 winners, with Jackie Pierce scoring the goal late in the match with the Burnley goalkeeper being given no chance.

It was the fourth time that Preston had won the Lancashire Cup, and oddly all Preston's four Final victories had taken place without them conceding a single goal. Only Blackburn Rovers had been Lancashire Cup winners on more occasions than Preston, yet in future years while Blackburn continued to have successes in the competition Preston did not always consider it to be that great a priority. Although Preston would remain one of the leading clubs in the county, it would be almost 100 years before they would again be victorious in a Lancashire Cup Final.

Assumedly as a cost cutting exercise it was decided this season that no medals would be presented to the runners-up. This was obviously not appreciated by losing Finalists Burnley, who at the first opportunity got a motion passed that henceforth medals would again be presented to the Lancashire Cup runners-up.

1900-01

For this season the Lancashire Cup committee made the request that all clubs play their ties on Monday afternoons. Again it was believed that the competition would get more publicity if games in the same round were all played on the same day. This season it was also the intention that the Lancashire Cup competition be completed by the middle of December.

As in 1899-1900 there were only six teams involved at the Qualifying Round stage. In the event one team, Haydock, scratched to give Rochdale a walk over after the two teams had shared a 1-1 draw. As a consequence of them scratching, Haydock were ordered to pay Rochdale £4 compensation.

This season saw Liverpool win the Football League Championship for the first time. However they failed to impress in the Lancashire Cup, going out with a 2-0 home defeat to Second Division Burnley in the First Round. Burnley went on to reach the Final, defeating two more First Division teams, Bolton Wanderers 5-0, and Manchester City 2-1 after a 2-2 draw.

In another First Round tie Rochdale defeated Chorley 1-0 after extra time. As Rochdale had started the game with just 9 players, this was an extremely good result for the home side.

In the Second Round Bury played Blackburn Rovers in a tie that went to five games before a winner could be found. The first two games were played at Bury and resulted in 0-0 draws. In the third game played at Blackburn goals came more easily, with the two teams drawing 3-3. Next came a 1-1 draw at Bolton's Burnden Park, before Rovers were victorious on the same ground by a 3-1 scoreline. The five games realised gate receipts of £610, which was quite a welcome sum of money for the two clubs.

The surprise team of the competition was the Bootle-based White Star Wanderers. After getting a bye in the Qualifying Round, they reached the Semi-Finals by defeating Darwen and Rochdale both by 3-1 scorelines. However having reached the last four, they were then put in their place with a resounding 4-0 defeat at the hands of Blackburn Rovers.

The Final between Blackburn Rovers and Burnley was played at Hyde Road, Manchester on a Monday in January. It was the 22nd Lancashire Cup competition, and although it was taking place a month later than had been originally envisaged,

it was the first time that a Final or a replay had not been played on a Saturday. Following on from the changes made in the previous two seasons, the Lancashire Cup was now essentially a mid-week competition. For many years it had been recognised that the growth of league football had virtually killed off any interest clubs had in playing friendlies. Now it was becoming apparent that league football was also killing off the playing of local cup competitions - although the Lancashire Cup would continue to survive while lesser competitions did cease to exist.

In what was the most one-sided scoreline in a Lancashire Cup Final to date, Blackburn Rovers were victors by a 4-0 scoreline. Three of their goals were scored by Peter Somers, who thus became the first player to score a hat trick in a Final. It was the sixth time that Blackburn had been Lancashire Cup winners.

1901-02

This season two non-league clubs, Accrington Stanley and Darwen, applied and had their requests accepted by the Lancashire FA that they be excused from taking up a place in the Lancashire Cup. These were two very different teams. Accrington Stanley were on the rise and had yet to play in the competition, while Darwen were on the decline and were having to consolidate. In 1899 Darwen had resigned their place in the Football League, with the club being wound up. A new Darwen FC had been formed, and in 1901-02 they would be Lancashire League champions without losing a game.

One club new to the competition was Barrow. Although not the first club from the town to have played in the Lancashire Cup, this was the present day Barrow FC which had only been formed in July 1901.

There were nine teams in at the qualifying stage. This necessitated that there be just one game in Qualifying Round 1, with seven teams getting a bye through to Qualifying Round 2.

As in the previous season, the two Finalists were Blackburn Rovers and Burnley. It was the second time that two successive Lancashire Cup Finals had been played out between the same two teams. The previous occasion had been in seasons 1883-84 and 1884-85, when Blackburn Rovers had played Blackburn Olympic.

With regard to the venue for the Final it was reported that Blackburn had refused to toss a coin for the choice of ground. This meant that a neutral venue had to be found, and as had been the case the previous season the game was played at Manchester City's Hyde Road ground. This time the crowd was only 4,000, which was half what it had been the previous season. The Final was played in December, which meant that this was easily the earliest completion date for a Lancashire Cup competition.

Again Rovers were able to prove themselves the masters. Although it was a much closer game than the previous season, they completed a double success over their neighbours with Arnie Whittaker scoring the solitary goal in the second half to lift the trophy. Blackburn were Lancashire Cup winners for the seventh time, while Burnley now had the disappointment of having been losing Finalists in three successive Lancashire Cup Finals.

1902-03

For the second year running Darwen were granted permission to stay out of the Lancashire Cup, but there were a number of teams making their first appearances in the competition.

One well known team among the newcomers was Accrington Stanley, who were now ready to take up a place in the competition. Formed as Stanley Villa in 1892, they changed their name to Accrington Stanley in 1894, and in eight years had risen in status to fill the void left by the demise of the original Accrington club.

Other teams new to the competition were Glossop and St Helens Recreation. Derbyshire based Glossop were following in the footsteps of Stockport County and Stalybridge Rovers, and were becoming the third club from outside the county boundaries to play in the Lancashire Cup. St Helens Recreation was a club associated with the Pilkington Brothers Glass Works, and were the second team from St Helens to be participating in the Lancashire Cup. It was quite remarkable that a town which was more well known for playing rugby football should have two representatives in the competition, and although neither side could be looked on as serious contenders, both St Helens Recreation and St Helens Town would have their moments in the Lancashire Cup.

Although not a new team, one other important new name among the participants was Manchester United. Under similar circumstances that had seen Ardwick transformed into Manchester City, Newton Heath had been wound up as a club in 1902 only to be immediately re-born as Manchester United.

In the first qualifying round Earlestown were comprehensive winners over White Star Wanderers. There appears to be some confusion as to whether the score was actually 12-1 or 11-1, but whatever it was it would be the last game that White Star Wanderers would play in the competition. The other tie in the first qualifying round failed to produce a winner on the playing field. After two drawn games had been played, St Helens Town scratched from the competition to allow Rochdale Town to progress into the next round.

In the First Round one tie turned out to be a long drawn out epic. It took four games to find a winner in the tie between Blackpool and Liverpool. After playing out draws on both teams home grounds, there was another draw at Hyde Road in Manchester, before Blackpool were 3-2 winners on Preston's Deepdale ground. Ironically in the next round, Blackpool were drawn to play Preston, and in a replay at Deepdale they were to be heavily defeated.

The Second Round was to prove most competitive with a total of eight games being necessary in order to find winners from the four ties. It took Everton three games to defeat Manchester City, yet after two draws they were able to produce a fine 3-0 win on their opponents ground. Bury were also to make hard work of it, winning 2-1 away in a replay after first being held to a draw on their own ground by neighbours Bolton.

Both Everton and Bury were to coast through their Semi-Finals. At home Everton were 3-0 winners over Blackburn Rovers, while Bury were 3-1 winners over Preston North End in a game played at Ewood Park. This set up the prospect of an interesting Final. After being the leading club in the county Everton were now going through a period of adjustment, while Bury had recently built a reputation that they were a good cup side. The Final was played at Bury's Gigg Lane ground, and it was the home team who triumphed, winning a close match with a second half goal coming from emergency forward Joe Leeming.

Bury's captain George Ross was playing in his fourth Lancashire Cup Final, and he had now been able to hold the trophy aloft on three separate occasions. 1902-03 had been an extremely successful season of cup football for Bury. Before the Lancashire Cup Final had been played, they were already the holders of the FA Cup. At the Crystal Palace they had defeated Derby County 6-0 in what still remains the biggest ever winning margin in an FA Cup Final. Eleven days later, and just two days after lifting the Lancashire Cup, Bury played Manchester City at Hyde Road in the Manchester Senior Cup Final. The result was a 2-2 draw, and with no replay being played it was decided that the cup be held jointly by the two teams. With this achievement, at least for a six month period, Bury could claim that they were holders of three important cup competitions. Photographs show them with the three trophies on display, with the Lancashire Cup naturally enough dwarfing the other two cups.

1903-04

It was the 25th staging of the Lancashire Cup competition, and to celebrate there were some familiar names from the earliest days again being invited to participate. Back among the competitors were Darwen, Padiham, and Turton, three teams which had played in the very first Lancashire Cup competition in 1879-80. Also back were Oswaldtwistle Rovers, playing for the first time since the 1884-85 season.

With these teams back in the fold, there were actually 28 teams in the competition. It was the highest total since the 1887-88 season, and with 16 teams taking part in the qualifying rounds this meant that there could be a full complement of 8 ties in Qualifying Round One with no teams needing to be handed a bye.

In the event Darwen, Padiham, and Turton, were all defeated at the first hurdle. On the face of it Darwen's return to the competition had been particularly painful, with them being

defeated 8-1 away to Barrow, then a team one division below them in the Lancashire Combination.

It was the first season that the Lancashire Combination had been a two division league. At the end of the 1902-03 season the longer established Lancashire League had been wound up, with the member clubs being accepted en masse to form the Lancashire Combination Second Division. In practice Darwen's big defeat was perhaps not that surprising as arguably the Lancashire League clubs had been superior to their Lancashire Combination counterparts.

For 1903-04 there was a rule change that clubs need not field their full strength sides. There was also a request from the Lancashire FA that all ties be played on Saturdays, unless it was mutually agreed by the two clubs that another day was preferred. As a consequence of these changes, the First Round was again played on a Saturday, with the Football League clubs openly playing their reserve sides in the competition. This explains why there were a number of unexpected results at this stage. Southport Central were 6-1 winners over the previous season's Lancashire Cup winners Bury, and after a drawn game St Helens Town were 1-0 winners over Bolton Wanderers in the replay at Burnden Park.

A third surprise result was Chorley's 3-1 home win over Blackpool. However following a protest by Blackpool the game was later declared void, with the Lancashire FA deciding that the two teams should meet again at Preston's Deepdale ground. In the re-played game Blackpool were 2-0 winners, and once again Chorley had come very close but had failed to pull off a victory over a Football League side.

The two Finalists were Southport Central and Blackburn Rovers. Southport were the first non-Football League side to have reached a Lancashire Cup Final since Bury in the 1891-92 season. After their comprehensive victory over the Shakers in the First Round, they had been 1-0 winners away to St Helens Town, and then in the Semi-Final had produced another impressive and unexpected result in defeating Preston North End 3-2.

The Final was played at Preston's Deepdale ground, with Blackburn Rovers coming out 2-1 winners over their non-league opponents. Both Blackburn goals were scored by Lionel Watson, who was an ex-Southport Central player. The referee for this match was AS Barker of Hanley, and significantly it was the last occasion that a Lancashire Cup Final would be controlled by a referee who was not based in the county. It was the eighth time that Rovers had been Lancashire Cup winners, and it was their third success in a period of four years.

In the aftermath of the Final there were to be some strange goings on. After the game Southport Central took possession of the ball, and had to be ordered to return it by the Lancashire FA. It was also reported that Southport Central did not want the runners-up medals. As a result of all this Southport Central were briefly suspended by the Lancashire FA, but they were back in the fold once a formal apology was received.

Unfortunately the Lancashire Cup Final had failed to attract the crowds. It was reported that when the game started the attendance was just 1,500, which was at this time easily the lowest crowd for a Lancashire Cup Final. Gate receipts were only £51-15s-9d, which was even lower than the disappointing gate receipts taken in 1880-81 when entrance prices had been much lower. It was to be a strange season for organised Lancashire football. The much less prestigious Lancashire Amateur Cup Final had gate receipts of £87-2s-0d, which was higher than those taken at either the Lancashire Cup Final or the Lancashire Junior Cup Final.

The Lancashire FA was not totally reliant on the gate receipts taken at the various cup Finals. Another source of income was from a subscription fee charged to the participating clubs in the competitions. At this time each club had to pay 5s-6d to take up a place in the Lancashire Cup.

Later in the season there was to be another 'Lancashire' Cup Final, with the two FA Cup Finalists both coming from the county. It was the first time that two Lancashire teams had contested the FA Cup Final, with Manchester City defeating Bolton Wanderers 1-0 in the game played at the Crystal Palace.

1904-05

This season the number of entrants was two down from the previous season. Additionally with both Glossop and Heywood scratching from the competition without playing, it was necessary that only four ties be played in the first qualifying round.

In the second qualifying round Nelson were 10-3 winners over Black Lane Temperance. A big score in what was a very strange game. Beginning well, the Black Lane side had scored 2 goals in the first five minutes and had been leading at the break. Obviously taking inspiration from the half-time oranges, Nelson had then run riot in the second half scoring 9 goals to complete their victory.

Although the qualifying round matches were all played on Saturdays in September, the later rounds were back again scheduled to be contested on Monday afternoons.

The First Round saw one Football League team defeated by non-league opposition, and it was again Southport Central who were the successful side. They were able to prove that their appearance in the previous seasons Final had been no fluke, pulling off an impressive 2-1 win away to Blackpool. Southport followed this with the 6-1 defeat of fellow Lancashire Combination side Earlestown, and in the Semi-Finals they were paired with Liverpool. Against the odds Southport triumphed 2-0, and this had been against Liverpool's first team and not their reserves.

Their opponents in the Final were Everton, who had won through with three home victories each by a single goal margin. Perhaps fearing the financial consequences of again staging the Final on a neutral ground, the game was played at Southport's Haig Avenue.

After their disappointment of the previous season, it was Lancashire Combination side Southport who were successful. They were 2-1 winners over what was effectively Everton's reserve side.

This was the first time that a club had fielded an openly 'reserve' side in a Lancashire Cup Final. However it was perhaps understandable, as the following day Everton's first team had an important fixture with Aston Villa, playing them in an FA Cup Semi-Final replay. Although they may have been reserves, the Everton team did include nine players who had played some first team football during the season. One of their more experienced players was the 'unlucky' Tom Booth, who was playing in his third Lancashire Cup Final and was picking up his third losers medal.

Southport had six players who had played in the previous season's Final, and who were now gaining winners medals to display alongside their losers medals from 1903-04.

The referee for this Final was the renowned John Lewis of Blackburn. Over the years he had earned the title 'The Prince of Referees', and was a strict enforcer of the rules and a man who was said to stand no nonsense from players. He had been the referee for the 1894-95, 1896-97, and 1897-98 FA Cup Finals. His first appointment as referee for a Lancashire Cup Final had been in 1893-94, and in a run of 12 seasons he had now been the referee on six occasions. Considering that he was also a leading Blackburn Rovers official and that Rovers had been involved in five of the other six Finals, he had actually missed only one opportunity to be the referee during this period. He was one of Blackburn Rovers founder members, and had later been a leading official with the Football Association, the Lancashire Football Association, and the Football League.

Southport 1904-05

1905-06

For the first time ever the Lancashire Cup was limited to just 16 teams. For a number of reasons this was the ideal total for the competition. It meant that there was no need for any qualifying round games to be played, and it meant that all teams could enter the competition at the same stage. In later years this was to become the accepted format, as 16 just about coincided with the number of Football League teams based in Lancashire.

This season the 16 entrants comprised 10 Football League clubs plus 6 Lancashire Combination clubs. Of the Football League clubs, 7 were playing in Division One, while 3 were in Division Two. It was to be a very good season for Lancashire clubs. Liverpool were Football League Champions, Preston North End were the Runners-Up, Manchester United would win promotion from Division Two, while Everton would be FA Cup winners.

The 1905-06 competition was compacted into just two months in the first half of the season. This arrangement seemed to work well, and would be a principle that would be followed for another nine seasons until the Lancashire Cup was stopped for the Great War.

With the competition restricted to the county's 16 leading clubs, it was again the Lancashire FA's expectation that all clubs would field their strongest sides in Lancashire Cup ties. In the First Round Everton did not field their best side, and were defeated 3-2 at St Helens Recreation. Subsequently they were fined £20 by the Lancashire FA. Blackburn Rovers and Manchester City also fielded weakened teams, but on this occasion their explanations were considered acceptable. However after the Second Round matches had been played the Lancashire FA secretary Dick Gregson was instructed to write to all clubs who did not play their full strength side in Lancashire Cup ties. It was explained that the Lancashire FA were determined that clubs must take the competition seriously, and should not put out second rate teams for the paying spectators.

After their success of the previous season, Lancashire Cup holders Southport Central were firmly put in their place, suffering a 3-0 home defeat to Preston North End. Despite Southport having fallen by the wayside, a Lancashire Combination club would again excel in the competition.

This time it was Accrington Stanley, who in 1905-06 would go on to be Lancashire Combination Division One Champions. In the First Round Accrington were 6-2 winners over fellow Combination side Nelson, but in the Second Round they pulled off a big surprise in winning 3-2 away to Manchester City. Following this Accrington were a little fortunate in their Semi-Final tie when they defeated Blackpool. A first game at Preston resulted in a 2-2 draw, with Accrington lucky to have survived as they had scored a strongly disputed goal. Also at Deepdale the second game was again very close, with Stanley scoring the only goal of the match to reach their first Lancashire Cup Final.

It was the third consecutive season that a Lancashire Combination side had reached the Lancashire Cup Final. Their opponents were Bury, who had again proved themselves to be a better cup side than their league form suggested. In the First Round they were 2-0 winners at Liverpool, then they produced a 2-0 home win over Preston North End, and in their Semi-Final they were 2-1 winners over neighbours Bolton Wanderers.

The Final was played at neutral Ewood Park, and it was Bury who were runaway 4-0 winners. The game was played in a thick mist which grew worse as the game progressed, and it soon became very difficult for spectators to see the ball. Accrington Stanley were said to have been particularly poor on the day, with Bury scoring three second half goals to emphasize their superiority.

Joe Leeming was playing in his third winning Final for Bury. A versatile player, in the first two Finals he had played at centre half and as an inside forward, and now this time he was a full back. Also in the Bury side was Gilbert Chorlton, a player who was emulating the achievement of his brother Frank. Both had been losing Finalists with Southport in 1903-04, and now in successive seasons both had gone on to pick up winners medals.

Interestingly after the game had been played losing Finalists Accrington requested that their players be presented with gold medals rather than the silver medals that had been traditional.

1906-07

The practice of keeping the Lancashire Cup to an elite 16 teams was abandoned after just one season. According to the rules it was now to be competed for by '16 or more clubs'. However from 1906-07 there was a minor change to the structuring of the competition, with the bigger clubs now being given an exemption through to the Second Round. This season eleven teams were given this exemption - Lancashire's ten Football League clubs, plus the previous seasons losing Finalists Accrington Stanley.

The First Round had effectively replaced the qualifying rounds, although strangely for this one season only there was a requirement for a Preliminary Round of just one game to be played. This extra game was contested by Oldham Athletic and Northern Nomads, both clubs who were making their first appearances in the competition.

Northern Nomads were something of an oddity as football clubs go. They had been formed in 1900, and had been styled on the famous Corinthians football club in London. They were a collection of amateur players drawn mainly from the Manchester area, and this was to be their only appearance in the Lancashire Cup.

Oldham was a town which had long been a rugby stronghold. Despite its size, until this season it had never had any representation in the Lancashire Cup, although nearby Middleton had played in the competition on several occasions. The Oldham Athletic club had been formed in 1899, and in just seven years had become established as a leading Lancashire non-league side. They would be Lancashire Combination Division One Champions in 1906-07, and the following season would be playing in the Football League. Oldham were 6-2 winners of the Preliminary Round match, but subsequently Northern Nomads made complaints that the game had started late and that Oldham had only charged 4d admission. Oldham went through to the First Round, where they were defeated by Darwen after the two teams had played two 0-0 draws.

Lancashire Cup ties were now being played almost exclusively on Mondays. It became the practice that a club had to make a special application and be granted permission if they wished their game to be played on any other day.

In the Second Round Liverpool were 4-1 winners over Manchester United. The match was played in a downpour with the players twice having to leave the field. On the second occasion the Manchester United players failed to return to the pitch, and the game was abandoned with only 55 minutes football having been played. With Liverpool having got a three goal advantage, the result was allowed to stand, but Manchester United were fined two guineas for not completing the game.

In a Second Round replay the previous seasons Finalists Accrington Stanley were humiliated by a 7-1 defeat at Rossendale United. However Rossendale themselves were quickly brought back down to earth in the Third Round with them suffering a 6-0 defeat at Liverpool.

The two Finalists were Blackburn Rovers and Liverpool. This was Blackburn's 14th appearance in a Lancashire Cup Final. In contrast, although Liverpool had been a leading club in the county since their formation in 1892, this was their first appearance in a Lancashire Cup Final.

The Final was played at Ewood Park, with the home side running out easy winners by a 3-0 scoreline. After a sequence of low crowds in Lancashire Cup Finals, the Lancashire FA must have been pleased that the game attracted the first 10,000 plus attendance since the 1895-96 season.

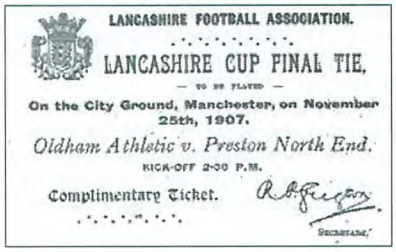
1907-08

Indications were that the Lancashire Cup was experiencing an increase in interest. The Lancashire FA were keen to promote their premier competition, and early in the season they organised a special conference to make decisions on how it could be further improved to bring it back to its glory days.

In the First Round St Helens Recreation were 5-0 winners over Chorley, and in the next round they pulled off a real surprise in winning 4-0 away to Blackpool. Although Football League teams were still taking a risk by fielding weakened teams, this really was a great result for the Lancashire Combination side.

Also in the Second Round, in a game played between two Lancashire Combination sides, Barrow were 3-2 winners over Accrington Stanley. In a throwback to the early seasons of the Lancashire Cup, Accrington made a protest against the result claiming that the game had been played on a pitch that was too narrow. The Lancashire FA considered the appeal, but ruled in favour of Barrow that the result should stand.

The two Lancashire Combination sides were to make an exit at the next stage. St Helens Recreation were defeated by Oldham Athletic, while Barrow were defeated by Preston North End. Oldham and Preston were then both successful in their Semi-Finals with impressive victories over Liverpool and Manchester United respectively.


LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

LANCASHIRE CUP FINAL TIE.

— TO BE PLAYED —

On the City Ground, Manchester, on November 25th, 1907.

Oldham Athletic v. Preston North End.

KICK-OFF 2-00 P.M.

Complimentary Ticket.

SECRETARY.

The Final was played at Manchester City's Hyde Road ground in conditions that were far from ideal. The game kicked off in a thick fog, with the teams taking no half time break in order to try and ensure that the game could be played to a finish. Despite the conditions it was described as a great game with Oldham running out deserved 2-0 winners with a goal in each half.

This was Oldham Athletic's first season as a Football League side. It was only the second season that they had played in the Lancashire Cup, and they had emerged winners. When the Oldham team returned to the town later that same day they were met by great crowds. The players and officials were escorted through the town, before being welcomed by the Mayor at the Town Hall, where there were a number of celebratory speeches. While the Lancashire Cup may not have had the appeal it once had to some clubs, to a rising club like Oldham Athletic it was still recognised as being a prestigious trophy to have in your possession.

1908-09

Before any games were played this season, Everton made their viewpoint clear by saying that they did not agree with the rule that clubs must always play their best available team. With this statement of dissatisfaction it was perhaps inevitable that they would soon run into trouble with the Lancashire FA.

The Second Round threatened to throw up a couple of surprises, but neither actually materialised. Rossendale United got a 2-2 draw at Blackpool, only to lose the replay 4-0 at home. Similarly Colne got a 2-2 draw at Bury, only to lose 4-2 at home to the Football League side. Although not really a surprise, holders Oldham Athletic had soon been put out of the competition, losing 4-2 at home to Blackburn Rovers.

Blackburn went on to win 2-1 at Manchester United, and in their Semi-Final tie they got a 3-3 draw away to Manchester City. However the replay proved to be a one-sided matter for Rovers with them winning through by a resounding 7-0 scoreline.

The other Semi-Final was an all Liverpool affair. In the Second Round Everton had been 3-1 winners at Bury, and in the Third Round they had been 6-2 winners over Blackpool. Despite these two wins, in November 1908 Everton were fined £25 by the Lancashire FA for fielding weak teams. When the Semi-Final was played a few weeks later Everton again chose to field a weakened side, with just three players being retained from their recognised first team line-up. Everton justified their team selection by saying that the other first team players were all injured or incapacitated, and they made offers to the Lancashire FA officials that they were welcome to inspect the missing players. Perhaps not unexpectedly the game was a poor one, with Liverpool getting a 2-0 win on their opponents ground. The matter was far from over, with the Lancashire FA subsequently fining Everton £100 plus another £99-0s-9d which had actually been Everton's share of the gate receipts. Following this Everton made an appeal to the Football Association, with the outcome that the £100 fine stood although they were allowed to keep the gate receipts.

Bury, Liverpool, and Manchester United were other clubs under investigation for deliberately fielding weak sides. In the event Bury and Liverpool provided satisfactory explanations, while Manchester United had to produce medical certificates to prove that their team selection was justified.

With Blackburn Rovers and Liverpool in the Final, this meant it was a repeat of the 1906-07 Final. As on that occasion the Final was played at Blackburn's Ewood Park ground, and as on that occasion Blackburn were comprehensive winners. The crowd was 14,000, which was good news financially for the Lancashire FA and proof that the competition was by no means a spent force.

The Final itself had very nearly turned into a rout for Blackburn. They were 4-0 up at the interval, and on 57 minutes had established a 5-0 lead. However Liverpool made the scoreline a little more respectable with three late goals to make the score at the final whistle 5-3 to Blackburn.

1909-10

This season St Helens Recreation were again the surprise team of the competition. After receiving an exemption in the First Round, they played well to get a 4-4 draw away to Liverpool in the Second Round. For the replay, they gave up home advantage to the Anfield men, yet were able to pull off a most unexpected 3-1 win. In the Third Round they got a 3-3 draw at Accrington, before winning the replay at home 3-0. However with these two scalps under their belt, they were then defeated 2-0 by Everton in the Semi-Finals. For several of these games the St Helens side included Teddy Doig, a most experienced goalkeeper who had previously been with Liverpool and Sunderland.

Before defeating St Helens Recreation, Everton had been 3-1 winners at Bury, and 6-2 home winners over Blackpool. Their opponents in the Final were Blackburn Rovers, who had also won through with three resounding victories. Blackburn had been victorious 3-0 over Manchester United, 5-1 over Oldham Athletic in a replay, and had then been 4-1 winners over Manchester City in their Semi-Final.

Everton were to win the toss for the choice of ground, and on the day they were much the stronger team. At the interval they had a 1-0 lead, but in the second half they coasted to complete a 4-0 victory. A crowd of 10,000 was quite respectable, but typically derogatory comments were made that these days there was not that much glamour in winning the Lancashire Cup.

It was the third time that Everton had been Lancashire Cup winners. Although they may have had reservations about playing in the competition, it was actually their third Final appearance in eight seasons. For Bob Balmer it was third time lucky, as he had also been a member of the Everton sides which had been losing Finalists in 1902-03 and 1904-05.

1910-11

Making their first appearance in the competition this season were Rochdale, a club which would eventually go on to be Lancashire Cup winners. They had been formed only as recently as 1907, and in 1909-10 had been winners of the Lancashire Junior Cup. Like neighbouring Oldham, Rochdale was a town where rugby had traditionally been the more popular game. Rochdale itself had already been represented in the Lancashire Cup by an earlier Rochdale FC and by Rochdale Town, but both these clubs had been relatively short-lived. Rochdale would go on to be Lancashire Combination Division One Champions in 1910-11.

Before the competition started a communication was sent out re-stating the principle that 'a club shall play its full strength team in all ties' just in case anyone was still unsure. Subsequently Everton were again vocal in querying the rules, asking about the payment of bonuses to players. The

Lancashire FA reply was that they could not sanction any such payments.

Everton were to open their defence of the trophy with a Liverpool derby, and it was Everton who were the 1-0 victors at Anfield in front of a 10,000 crowd. The highest goalscorers of the Second Round were Manchester United who were 8-0 victors over Nelson, while St Helens Recreation again reached the last eight with a 2-0 away win at Chorley.

The two Finalists were Burnley and Blackburn Rovers. Burnley were to reach the Final without conceding a goal in the four games they played. A 1-0 home win over Rochdale was followed by a 3-0 home win over St Helens Recreation. In their Semi-Final they drew 0-0 with Manchester United, but in the replay they were 1-0 winners.

The other Semi-Final saw a re-match of the previous seasons Lancashire Cup Finalists. Again played at Goodison Park, the game produced a scoreline which was in complete contrast to what had occurred in the 1909-10 Final, with Blackburn Rovers winning 6-1 on their opponents ground. This was actually Blackburn's third resounding win of the competition. In the Second Round they had defeated Preston North End 4-1 at home, then in the Second Round they had been 4-0 winners away to Bolton Wanderers.

The Final turned out to be a long drawn out affair, with four games being needed to find a winner. The first game was played at Ewood Park in weather described as gusty and threatening. Burnley had a 1-0 lead at half time, but in the second half Blackburn got a goal back to level the score at 1-1. The game was refereed by the Reverend JW Marsh, the only man of the cloth to officiate at a Lancashire Cup Final.

The second game was played a month later at Burnley's Turf Moor ground, and it was described as a pulsating struggle. This time it was Blackburn Rovers who took the lead, with Burnley coming back to equalise through a penalty before half time. This remained the score after 90 minutes, but in extra time Burnley took the lead only for Blackburn to again come back to level the score at 2-2. In this game Burnley's Bob Reid was sent off for a bad tackle on Walter Anthony, the scorer of Blackburn's second goal. This was probably the first instance of a sending off in a Lancashire Cup Final, an event which has been extremely uncommon over the years.

The third game was played several weeks later at Bolton's Burnden Park ground. On this occasion both teams were forced to field weakened sides due to players being incapacitated or ineligible. This was to make no difference and yet again the teams could not be separated, with the game finishing goal-less.

The fourth game was played at Ewood Park, over four months after the first game in the series had been staged on the same ground. Although the Final was turning into a saga the size of the crowd this time was almost twice that at the first Ewood Park game. This time Blackburn were vastly superior to Burnley, although their victory was only by 2 goals to 1. Burnley had opened the scoring 'with a goal that was clearly offside', but Rovers had come back to again take the trophy. It had taken something like 390 minutes to find a winner. However with four games played and with gate receipts of over £930, the Lancashire FA must have been most satisfied with the way the 1910-11 Lancashire Cup Final had gone. Perhaps grateful that the Final games had generated so much income, the Lancashire FA ruled that on this occasion gold medals would be presented to both teams.

Blackburn Rovers were easily the most successful club that had played in the Lancashire Cup. They had now been cup winners on eleven occasions, with the next best team Preston North End only being able to boast four Final victories. Furthermore Blackburn had now been Lancashire Cup winners six times in an 11 year period, with three of these victories having been over Burnley. Two players, Billy Bradshaw and Bob Crompton had now got four Lancashire Cup winners medals, while four other Blackburn players had now got two winners medals.

This was Burnley's fourth successive defeat in a Lancashire Cup Final, and one player Fred Barron had been involved in all four Finals. He had picked up losers medals in 1899-1900, 1900-01, and 1901-02, but this season had only played in the first game of the four matches needed to find a Lancashire Cup winner.

1911-12

The 1911-12 season saw a small increase in the number of entrants. Once again it was determined that the 10 leading Lancashire non-league teams could all go into the First Round draw, with the five winners going through to join the 11 Lancashire-based Football League teams in the Second Round.

Barrow were to be the best of the non-league sides. In the first two rounds they were 2-1 winners at Rochdale and 5-2 winners at home over St Helens Recreation. However this season there were to be no surprises, and in the Third Round they were knocked out by Bolton Wanderers, the first Football League side they had come up against.

After having eliminated two non-league sides, Bolton reached the Final with a 2-1 win over Manchester United. The other Finalists were Burnley, who had won through after being paired with Blackburn Rovers in their Semi-Final. Unlike the long drawn out affair that had been the previous seasons Final, this time it was not too difficult to find a winner, with Burnley triumphing 3-1 on their opponents ground.

The Final was played at Burnden Park, and in front of their own supporters Bolton were winners by 4 goals to one. Strangely it was actually Burnley who had opened the scoring, but as the half time whistle approached the Bolton players were transformed. The equaliser came from an own goal which gave goalkeeper Jerry Dawson no chance, and within 7 minutes Bolton had added two more goals to give them a 3-1 lead at the interval. Little was given away by either side in the second half, but in the last minute of the game Alf Bentley scored his second goal for Bolton to finish off an easy 4-1 victory.

It was the third time that Bolton had been Lancashire Cup winners, but their first success since the 1890-91 season. Burnley's last Lancashire Cup Final victory had been as long ago as the 1889-90 season. They had since reached the Lancashire Cup Final five times and had been defeated on each occasion.

1912-13

This season the Lancashire Cup was formatted exactly as it had been in the 1911-12 season. For the second year running it was Barrow who were the non-league team to last the longest in the competition, but again they were defeated as soon as they faced Football League opposition. In the First Round they defeated St Helens Town 5-1. St Helens had agreed that the venue could be switched to Barrow, and for this they were given a £14 guarantee plus half of the remaining gate money. Barrow defeated Rochdale in the next round, but in the Third Round they were eliminated in a close game away to Manchester City.

Blackburn Rovers were the highest goalscorers of the Second Round with an 8-0 away win at Nelson. This was another game where the venue had been switched at the agreement of both teams. On this occasion the switch was said to have been totally justified, with Nelson getting a crowd of about 6,000 and with gate receipts of £152 being taken. It was a sign of the times, but this would certainly not be the only occasion that a Lancashire Cup tie would be switched to a smaller club's ground in order to get a bigger crowd.

Also in the goals were Preston North End, who defeated Liverpool 5-1 after the teams had first played out a 0-0 draw. In another tie St Helens Recreation again looked like they might cause an upset. At home they held Blackpool to a 0-0 draw, before losing 3-1 in the replay at Bloomfield Road. It was the last ever appearance in the Lancashire Cup for the St Helens side.

Another Second Round game saw Manchester United defeat Oldham Athletic 4-1. The game was described as a perfect farce, and it was reported that the Lancashire Cup had not been treated with the proper respect. The Lancashire FA gave serious consideration that some of the players involved be suspended as they were determined that the competition should not be flouted.

Strangely all three games at the Semi-Final stage were played at Blackburn's Ewood Park ground. The first game saw Blackburn Rovers defeat Manchester City 6-1 on their own home ground. The following week Blackpool and Manchester United drew 0-0, only to play there again in the replay with Manchester United winning 5-0.

Having reached the Final, Manchester United refused to toss for the choice of grounds. The Lancashire FA decided that it should be played at Blackpool's Bloomfield Road

ground. It would be the first time that a Lancashire Cup Final had been played in the seaside town, and the Lancashire FA believed it was appropriate in a 'missionary sense'. This choice of venue was not welcomed by the Manchester United officials, with them claiming that it was not a suitable setting due to Blackpool not having a big football community in the winter.

Although they may have had their reservations about the venue, it was Manchester United who were triumphant. They opened the scoring, only for Rovers to equalise before the break. They then took a 2-1 lead when Blackburn goalkeeper Alfred Robinson fisted the ball into his own net, and made it 3-1 before Rovers scored again to ensure a close finish.

It was the second time that Manchester United had been Lancashire Cup winners. Their previous success had been in the 1897-98 season, when under the guise of Newton Heath they had again defeated Blackburn Rovers in the Final.

This season the Lancashire FA had to make rulings over a number of complaints. Bolton Wanderers were fined 5 guineas for not properly advertising their game against Southport Central, with the money being paid to Southport. They were also fined another 10 guineas for playing a weak team. Manchester City were fined 20 guineas for fielding a weak team against Everton. Other teams investigated included Bury, Liverpool, Manchester United, and Preston North End, who were not fined, while Burnley were also under suspicion with their players said to have 'played listlessly' in their Second Round game with Bury. It was reported that four Burnley players were cross examined about their play, but it was impossible to pin the fault on a particular player.

1913-14

For the third season in succession the format of the Lancashire Cup was unaltered. However there was a change in the composition of the non-league entrants with Fleetwood and South Liverpool both playing in the competition for the first time. Four other clubs Chorley, Colne, Skelmersdale United, and Stalybridge Celtic had also applied for entry only to be refused.

Among the rules applying this season, it was stated that 'if teams have similar colours, then it is the home team who must change', that 'matches must be properly advertised', and that 'admission must not be less than 6d'. In the event the latter dictate was withdrawn, with Nelson and Eccles Borough being allowed to charge an entrance price of just 4d.

In the First Round the two newcomers were drawn together, but initially it was ruled that Fleetwood's ground was too small for it to host a Lancashire Cup tie. Subsequently a surveyor's certificate was produced to confirm the pitch was of the correct dimensions, but it was no help to Fleetwood who were defeated 2-1 by South Liverpool.

Another First Round tie resulted in Barrow being 4-0 winners over Accrington Stanley. This earned them a Second Round match with Rochdale, which made it the third consecutive season that these two teams had been drawn together. Barrow had won the previous two meetings, but this time it was Rochdale who were victorious.

The biggest surprise of the Second Round came from St Helens Town, who were able to pull off a 1-0 victory over Everton. Their joy was to be relatively short-lived, and in the Third Round just two weeks later they were defeated 6-0 by Blackpool. Despite this result the Third Round did see another giant-killing act, with Rochdale defeating First Division Bolton Wanderers 3-2.

In their Semi-Final Rochdale were drawn to play Blackpool, and like St Helens Town in the previous round they were easily beaten. This was the first time that Blackpool had reached a Lancashire Cup Final. The Seasiders had been a little fortunate in their route to the Final, with all their three games being against non-Football League teams.

Reaching the Final for the second year running were Manchester United, and the holders had faced a more testing set of fixtures. In the Second Round they were taken to a replay by Bury, then in the Third Round they were the winners of a difficult away tie at Liverpool. In the Semi-Finals they were paired with Manchester City, with the two rivals playing out a draw before United were 2-1 winners in a second game played at City's Hyde Road ground.

After Manchester United's Semi-Final performance the Final must have been a bit of an anti-climax. The Final was played at Bolton's Burnden Park, with United winning 1-0 in front of a disappointingly low crowd of 2,457. Although Manchester United were the victors, it was reported that Blackpool had played a good game and had put up a plucky fight. The winning goal was described as a typical Billy Meredith goal - with Manchester United inside forward Arthur Cashmore breasting in a cross from the illustrious winger.

It was the second season running that Manchester United had been Lancashire Cup winners. They were the first team to have achieved back-to-back wins in the competition since Blackburn Rovers had done so in 1900-01 and 1901-02. There were five Manchester United players who had picked up winners medals two years running.

Lancashire Football Association.

Blackpool v. Manchester United. Dec. 8th, 1913.

Admit to Council Seats, Reserved Stand.

This part to be retained.

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

Lancashire Cup Final Tie

TO BE PLAYED

At Burnden Park, Bolton, on December 8th, 1913,

Blackpool v. Manchester United.

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

Complimentary Ticket.

Admits to Council Seats, Reserved Stand.

T. Hargreaves, Secretary.

1914-15

This was a football season that was played under most exceptional circumstances. The season had started with the country already at war, with the authorities having taken the decision that sporting activities should continue wherever practical. However as the casualties in the Great War mounted, the nation began to lose its appetite for organised football. There were frequent calls that the season should be suspended, but in the end it did crawl along to a proper finish.

In practice the Lancashire Cup was not that seriously affected. As had become the custom the competition was played and completed during the first half of the season. The format for 1914-15 was exactly the same as in the previous three seasons, although before the First Round games could be played the most geographically isolated club Barrow took the decision to scratch.

Rochdale were again the non-league side who went the furthest. After reaching the previous seasons Semi-Final, this time they went all the way to the Final. They were a little fortunate in being paired with fellow non-league sides for their first three games, but in the Semi-Final they were drawn to play Oldham Athletic and were 2-0 winners over their more illustrious neighbours.

Their opponents in the Final were Burnley, who had looked impressive on their route to the Final. In the Second Round they were 5-0 winners over holders Manchester United, then in the Third Round they were 5-1 away winners at Liverpool. They reached the Final with a 2-1 home win over local rivals Blackburn Rovers.

The Final went to form, with Burnley defeating Rochdale in a most convincing manner. It was 3-0 at half time, and after 65 minutes Burnley had built up a 4-0 lead. Rochdale were able to pull a goal back late in the game, but their prospects had been severely dented when full back Bob Lilley had been injured in the first half reducing them to 10 men for the remainder of the game. The crowd was just 2,000, which made the game another let down financially for the Lancashire FA. The gate receipts were just £43-2s-0d, the lowest ever for a Lancashire Cup Final. Perhaps not surprisingly Burnley's Semi-Final tie with Blackburn Rovers had proved more popular, with gate receipts of £204-11s-1d being taken at this earlier match.

It was only the second time that Burnley had been Lancashire Cup winners. Their previous success had been in the 1889-90 season, exactly 25 years earlier. In the interim they had been beaten Lancashire Cup Finalists on five occasions. Burnley had been FA Cup winners in 1913-14, and it was reported that they were anxious to win both the FA Cup and Lancashire Cup in the same season. However this was not to be, with Bolton Wanderers defeating Burnley in the Third Round of the FA Cup.

1914-15 may have been far from normal, but it was a season when Lancashire clubs really excelled. Everton were

Football League Champions, and the top five places in Division One were all filled by Lancashire clubs, with Lancashire Cup winners Burnley finishing in fourth place. After this season the Football League and the Lancashire Cup were both suspended. With this decision Burnley were at first granted permission to keep possession of the trophy for a further 12 months.

1915-18

The Lancashire Cup competition was suspended for three seasons while the Great War continued to be fought. During this period, some Lancashire clubs closed down, but most of the county's Football League clubs continued to function by playing games in a Football League Lancashire Section Tournament and a Football League Lancashire Section Subsidiary Tournament.

1918-19

After a three year break the Lancashire Cup was back. With the Football League having been suspended at the end of the 1914-15 season, football had continued to be played only on a regional basis throughout the war years. The country was now attempting to get back to some degree of normality, and for the 1918-19 season the Football League's Lancashire Section Subsidiary Tournament was to double as the 'qualifying' competition for the Lancashire Cup.

The 16 competing clubs comprised Lancashire's 11 Football League clubs, plus two leading non-league clubs - Rochdale and Southport Vulcan, together with three 'honorary' Lancashire clubs - Port Vale, Stockport County, and Stoke. The entrance fee for clubs to play in the Lancashire Cup was 5 shillings and 6 pence, which was the same that it had been before the war.

Southport Vulcan was actually Southport Central under a temporary guise. In what could be considered a forerunner of sponsorship, during the 1918-19 season the Southport club had been financed by the Vulcan Motor & Engineering Company under the stipulation that they use the name Southport Vulcan. This arrangement was to last only one season, and from the 1919-20 season the present name Southport FC would be adopted.

Stockport County were making another of their occasional appearances in the Lancashire Cup, while the two Staffordshire clubs, Port Vale and Stoke, were both playing in the competition for their one and only time.

In a format devised by Charles Sutcliffe, and in retrospect arguably way ahead of its time, the 16 clubs were grouped into four geographical sections. Over the length of the season each team would play the other three teams in their section in both home and away games, with the results earning points in a mini-league. The standard league rules for points would apply, ie. two points for a win, one point for a draw, nothing for a defeat. The winners of the four sections would then go into the Lancashire Cup Semi-Finals to be played at the end of the season.

The four Semi-Finalists were Blackpool, Oldham Athletic, Manchester City, and Liverpool. After losing 5-1 away to Burnley on Christmas Day, Blackpool had then gone five games unbeaten in their section which surprisingly had Blackburn Rovers as wooden spoonists. Despite winning five of their six games played, Oldham Athletic had experienced a real fight to win their section and in the end they had only done so on goal average from Bolton Wanderers. In contrast Manchester City and Liverpool had both won their sections easily, each remaining unbeaten in the six games that they had played.

The Semi-Finals attracted a great amount of interest, with Liverpool and Oldham Athletic winning through. Manchester City and Oldham Athletic had to play two games to find a winner. The first game at City's Hyde Road ground attracted a crowd of 22,000, with gate receipts of £1,193. The replay at Oldham's Boundary Park produced gate receipts of £1,090, but the total could have been even more. In what were described as remarkable scenes, a door was broken down and hundreds of people swarmed into the ground without paying. Eventually, order was restored by the police, but not before respected Lancashire FA Official John Lewis had tried to intervene and had managed to get himself apprehended and briefly barred from gaining access to the ground.

The Final was played at Old Trafford, Manchester, with Liverpool comfortably defeating Oldham. Liverpool had a 1-0 lead at half time, only to score a second through a penalty, and then finish Oldham off with a third goal to record a 3-0 victory. The crowd of 21,605 and the gate receipts of £1,305 were both records for a Lancashire Cup Final.

It was the first time that Liverpool had been Lancashire Cup winners, and this was perhaps significant as the inter-war years would see a change of power in the Lancashire Cup with Liverpool and the two Manchester teams coming to the fore.

The return of the Lancashire Cup was hailed a great success. It was said that results had far exceeded the highest expectations. Certainly for the Lancashire FA it had been extremely profitable. It was reported that the Lancashire FA had taken net receipts of £3,200 from the Semi-Final and Final ties.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

LANCASHIRE CUP COMPETITION.

GREAT FINAL TIE

AT OLD TRAFFORD,

SATURDAY, 31st MAY, 1919.

RED.

LIVERPOOL

1 SCOTT, Goal

2 LONGWORTH, Right Back — 3 JENKINSON, Left Back

4 BAMBER, Right Half — 5 WADSWORTH (W.), Centre Half — 6 M'KINLAY, Left Half

7 WADSWORTH (H.), Outside Right — 8 CHAMBERS, Inside Right — 9 MILLER, Centre — 10 LEWIS, Inside Left — 11 PEARSON, Outside Left

Referee : L. N. FLETCHER. Kick-off - 3-15.

12 WALL, Outside Left — 13 GEE, Inside Left — 14 PILKINGTON, Centre — 15 WALTERS, Inside Right — 16 GOODWIN, Outside Right

17 WOLSTENHOLME, Left Half — 18 WILSON, Centre Half — 19 BRADBURY, Right Half

20 STEWART, Left Back — 21 GRUNDY, Right Back

22 MATTHEWS, Goal

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

BLUE AND WHITE.

Any change in the Teams will be notified by number on the board which will be sent round the enclosure.

THE MATCH MUST BE PLAYED TO A FINISH.

1919-20

This was the first properly organised football season after the Great War. After four years normal domestic football was back, with the Football League and the FA Cup again being contested. With the format of the 1918-19 Lancashire Cup having been such a success, it was decided that a similar concept should be used for the 1919-20 competition.

Where as the previous season had used the Lancashire Section Subsidiary Tournament as its 'qualifying' competition, this time it would be the results of specific Football League games which would be used to decide the teams which would go on to play in the Lancashire Cup Semi-Finals at the end of the season.

For 1919-20 only 12 teams were involved, which was the lowest number of entrants since the Lancashire Cup had started some 40 years earlier. For the first time the competition was limited only to clubs playing in the Football League, with the eleven Lancashire teams being joined by one guest team - Stockport County.

Again there were four sections, but this time there were three teams in each section. The first three sections each comprised three Lancashire teams playing in the First Division with them being grouped in an approximate geographical manner, while the fourth section comprised the remaining three teams which were at this time playing in the Second Division.

The four section winners were Burnley, Liverpool, Manchester United, and Blackpool. Burnley had clinched their place as early as December, while Blackpool did not win through until April when the season was almost over.

The Semi-Finals were played on the Saturday after the Football League season had been completed. For the second year running Liverpool defeated Blackpool, despite the Seasiders again having home advantage. Their opponents in the Final were Manchester United.

The Final was played at Anfield, and it proved to be a hard fought battle. There was no score at full time, and it was still 0-0 when 30 minutes of extra time had been played. It was decided that another 20 minutes of extra time should be played, and during this period Manchester United took the lead only for Liverpool to equalise the score at 1-1 before play was stopped.

With the game being played so late in the season, it was not considered appropriate that a replay should take place. The Lancashire FA made the decision that Liverpool and Manchester United should be considered joint holders of the Lancashire Cup, and that the trophy should be shared by the two clubs.

This may not have been a totally satisfactory conclusion, but Liverpool could at least claim to have joined the ranks of teams who had been winners of the Lancashire Cup for two successive seasons. The Lancashire FA were again satisfied financially, with the Final having again realised gate receipts of over £1,000. With no losing Finalists, for this season only the Lancashire FA were to purchase two sets of winners medals from suppliers T Fattorini Ltd at a total cost of £60-10s-0d.

1920-21

This season the Lancashire Cup was run on exactly the same lines as it had been in the 1919-20 season. With no Lancashire teams being promoted or relegated, the 12 teams were able to be placed in the same four sections as they had been the previous season.

The entrance fee to play in the Lancashire Cup was now £1-1s-0d. However it was noted that Liverpool, Manchester United, Preston North End, and Stockport County had all failed to submit entry applications, and that these clubs had all to be sent reminders.

This time round the four section winners were Burnley, Bolton Wanderers, Manchester City, and Bury. Burnley and Bolton had both won their sections with four straight wins, while Bury had also been unbeaten in their games. Surprisingly neither of the previous seasons joint holders Liverpool and Manchester United, had won through to play in the Semi-Finals.

The Semi-Final matches were played on the Monday after the completion of the Football League season, with Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City both being successful. Attendances were again good, with Manchester City getting a crowd of 20,000 for their game against Burnley.

The Final was played at Old Trafford, attracting a 25,000 crowd and record receipts of £1,640. It was a close game, with Manchester City taking an early lead after just 3 minutes. Bolton then got an equaliser mid-way through the first half, but City came back with a goal from Horace Barnes to record a 2-1 victory. Interestingly once the game had been played Manchester United made a claim for compensation of £11-14s-0d to cover the cost of repairs necessary for damage done at their Old Trafford ground.

Although Manchester City had been playing in the Lancashire Cup since 1891, surprisingly this was the first time that they had actually been winners of the competition. It was a good season for City with them also being Division One Runners-Up, and overall it was a good season for Lancashire clubs who would dominate the Football League's senior division. In 1920-21 the first four positions in Division One were filled by Burnley, Manchester City, Bolton Wanderers, and Liverpool, while Everton and Blackburn Rovers were also to finish in the top half of the table.

The Manchester City side included Mickey Hamill, who now had Lancashire Cup Winners Medals with both the Manchester clubs, having been in the Manchester United side which had defeated Blackpool in the 1913-14 Final.

1921-22

The 1921-22 season saw the expansion of the Football League to include a Third Division Northern Section. This followed a previous expansion the previous season, when a Third Division had been formed comprising entirely of southern clubs. The new Northern Section division comprised 20 clubs, with six of them being from Lancashire. These were Accrington Stanley, Barrow, and Wigan Borough, who in 1920-21 had been playing in the Lancashire Combination, and Nelson, Rochdale, and Southport, who in 1920-21 had been playing in the Central League.

The Lancashire FA took the viewpoint that all Lancashire clubs playing in the Football League should be participants in the Lancashire Cup. However the structuring of the Lancashire Cup was to get a little complicated. A number of different schemes were considered, but that chosen was an adaptation of the formula used in the three previous seasons. The teams were grouped into four sections. The first three sections were unchanged from 1920-21, with each section containing three Division One teams who would use the results of the league games against each other to decide which team would go through to the Semi-Finals.

The fourth section was more complex. It was decided that eight Third Division Northern Section teams would initially play in a knock-out competition to find a winner. The eight teams were the six Lancashire teams previously mentioned, plus two 'guests' in Stalybridge Celtic, and the newly relegated Stockport County. The winner from these eight would then meet either Blackpool or Bury to decide which team would be the winners of the section. The choice between Blackpool and Bury would depend which of the two was highest placed in Division Two on March 31st 1922.

The four section winners were Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Manchester City, and Bury. Current Lancashire Cup holders Manchester City had been easy winners of their group, while Blackburn Rovers had got through because of home and away wins over Burnley. The third section had provided a stalemate, with Bolton Wanderers, Everton, and Liverpool all having the same points and the same goal average. It was decided that Play-Off games should take place, and in these Bolton Wanderers pulled off resounding victories over both the Liverpool clubs. The fourth section went to form with Bury defeating Third Division Northern Section survivor Stockport County by 5 goals to nil in the deciding match. It was the sixth game that Stockport had played in the competition, and they had not even reached the Semi-Finals.

The Semi-Finals were again played on the Monday after the completion of the Football League season. Mid-table Second Division side Bury were 4-0 winners over First Division Blackburn, but the other game between Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City ended in a 0-0 draw. A replay was needed on the Saturday that had been earmarked for the Final, with Bolton running out 1-0 winners over the current Lancashire Cup holders.

This meant that the Final would be between neighbours Bolton Wanderers and Bury. It was played at Bury's Gigg Lane ground in mid-week, with 15,912 in attendance and with gate receipts yet again well in excess of £1,000. It was Bury who opened the scoring, but Bolton soon came back and in the end were comfortable 3-1 winners.

This was Bolton's fourth Lancashire Cup win, and it had come exactly 10 years after their most recent success. It was reported that after the game the Bolton players and officials returned to the town in a special tram car, where they were met by large crowds. Since the Lancashire Cup had been revived after the Great War this was ample proof that it was again recognised as a competition worth taking seriously.

Gate receipts from the Final were now split three ways, with one third going to the Lancashire FA, and with one third each going to the two Finalists.

It was somewhat ironic that Bolton had won 3-1 at Bury in the Final. In 1898-99, which was the only other occasion that the two teams had previously contested a Final, Bury had been 3-1 winners at Bolton.

1922-23

The 1922-23 Lancashire Cup was organised in a similar manner to the 1921-22 competition. Two of the qualifying sections were unchanged from the previous three seasons, while the third section now comprised just Manchester City and Oldham Athletic. The fourth section was again reserved for teams outside the First Division, but there were changes to the format. This time eight Third Division Northern Section teams would play in the First Round, with the four winners going through to join the four Second Division teams in the Second Round, and then it would continue as a straight knock-out competition to find the section winner.

At the end of the 1921-22 season Manchester United had been relegated from Division One, while Stockport County had been promoted from Division Three North. This meant that there were four Division Two sides. With another Northern Section team needed to make up the numbers, Tranmere Rovers were invited to participate in the competition for the first time. It was said that Stalybridge Celtic, Stockport County and Tranmere Rovers had all been given special permission by the Cheshire FA to play in the Lancashire Cup. As members of another association, they had to pay an entrance fee of 21 shillings to play in the Lancashire Cup, while Lancashire teams were at this time paying just 10 shillings and 6d.

The winners of the four sections were Preston North End, Liverpool, Manchester City, and Blackpool. Preston had just pipped Burnley to win their section, while Liverpool and Manchester City had both won their sections with ease. Blackpool had won the fourth section with a fine 4-0 away win over Stockport County in the deciding tie.

There were no surprises in the Semi-Finals, with Manchester City handing out a drubbing to Preston North End, and with Liverpool yet again defeating Blackpool on their own ground. This was the third time that Liverpool had done this to Blackpool in the five years since the Lancashire Cup had been revived.

The Final was played at Bolton's Burnden Park ground, with Manchester City defeating the newly crowned Football League Champions Liverpool by one goal to nil. The winning goal was scored by Frank Roberts just three minutes from the end of normal time.

Frank Roberts was certainly making his mark in the Lancashire Cup competition. Having been on the scoresheet for Bolton Wanderers in 1920-21 and 1921-22, this meant he had scored in each of the last three Lancashire Cup Finals. Already in possession of a Winners Medal from 1921-22, he had now become only the second player ever to pick up Winners Medals in two successive seasons while playing for two different teams.

After having waited 30 years for their first success, Manchester City had now become winners of the Lancashire Cup for the second time in three years. There were five players who had played in both their cup winning teams - Horace Barnes, Sam Cookson, Jim Goodchild, Mickey Hamill, and Billy Murphy.

The Manchester City team also included the legendary Billy Meredith, who was now 48 years old. This was his fourth Lancashire Cup Final appearance, and the third time he had been on the winning side. He had now equalled the achievement of team-mate Mickey Hamill, in that he had picked up Winners Medals with both Manchester City and Manchester United. He was in his second spell as a City player, and this was the second time that he had turned out for them in a Lancashire Cup Final. Incredibly his first Lancashire Cup Final appearance for Manchester City had been 26 years earlier in the 1896-97 season when they had been defeated 2-0 by Everton.

1923-24

This season the 17 Lancashire-based Football League clubs were joined by three guests - New Brighton, Stockport County, and Tranmere Rovers. It was the first time that New Brighton had been in the competition. For the 1923-24 season they had replaced Stalybridge Celtic in both the Football League and the Lancashire Cup, with the moderately successful Stalybridge having made the decision to resign their place in senior football due to financial concerns.

After five years of using sections and mini-leagues to determine the Semi-Finalists, the format of the Lancashire Cup was changed with it being restored as a straight knock-out competition. A First Round of four ties was contested by the seven Third Division Northern Section teams plus Nelson, who had been promoted to the Second Division at the end of the 1922-23 season. The First Division teams and the remaining Second Division teams entered the competition from the Second Round. Following the practice adopted before the Great War, the competition was played in the first half of the season with the intention that the Final be played in December. This was seen to be preferable as it was recognised that there had been problems in previous years with Lancashire Cup ties having to be cramped into a short period of time in the final days of the season.

The First and Second Round draws were announced at the same time, with clubs being encouraged to play their ties at the earliest mutually convenient date. This option resulted in Liverpool having already qualified for the Third Round, before two First Round ties had even been played.

In the First Round Tranmere Rovers drew 1-1 with Barrow. The replay was played a week later, with Barrow winning 1-0 when the game was abandoned after 117 minutes of football had been played. Surprisingly the result was not allowed to stand, but justice was done with Barrow winning 2-0 when the third game was played on Wigan's Springfield Park ground.

The First Round game between Wigan Borough and Rochdale was tainted with allegations that the two teams had not been trying. It was considered sufficiently important that there was an enquiry held, and subsequently a Wigan Borough official Mr Wallace was censured for unsatisfactory conduct before the commission.

In the Third Round Everton were held to a 0-0 home draw by Stockport County. After the match it was admitted that the standard of refereeing had been inadequate. For the replay two weeks later a new set of officials were appointed, and in this game Stockport were to run out comfortable 4-1 winners.

The two Finalists were Liverpool and Manchester City. Even though a radically new format had been used for the competition it had produced exactly the same Finalists as in the previous season.

The Final was played at Manchester City's new Maine Road ground, which had opened just four months earlier. Liverpool scored the first goal, but Manchester City came back strongly with the game finishing as a 1-1 draw. The replay was played at Anfield on the Saturday after the completion of the Football League season. This time Liverpool were 2-0 winners, with both goals coming from Danny Shone. With this win Liverpool had been able to avenge their defeat to City in the previous seasons Final.

This was Liverpool's third Lancashire Cup success, and there were three players who were picking up their third winners medals for the club - Don McKinlay, Elisha Scott, and Walter Wadsworth. Another player Fred Hopkin, was playing in his second winning Final, after previously having played for Manchester United against Liverpool in the 1919-20 drawn Final.

1924-25

For the 1924-25 season Tranmere Rovers were missing from the competition, having previously given word that they were unable to continue. The Birkenhead side had only played in the Lancashire Cup in 1922-23 and 1923-24, and in both seasons they had been knocked out in the First Round by Barrow.

With one less team in the competition, there was now a need for only three games to be played at the First Round stage. As they were the Third Division side to have got the furthest in the competition in 1923-24, Barrow were given exemption until the Second Round along with the First and Second Division teams.

The Second Round saw a couple of protests by defeated Third Division sides. Barrow protested that Preston should not have included Tom Hamilton as he had already played for Lancashire Combination side Dick, Kerr's in a Lancashire Junior Cup tie, while Nelson protested that Blackburn Rovers winning goal against them should definitely not have been given. In both instances the Lancashire FA rejected the protest.

In the Third Round Lancashire Cup holders Liverpool were defeated 4-1 by Preston. This was ample revenge for Preston who had been defeated 7-3 by Liverpool in the previous seasons competition.

The two Finalists were Blackpool and Bolton Wanderers. The Final was played at Burnden Park, with the game reported as finishing in extremely gloomy conditions. Bolton were 2-1 winners, but Blackpool could count themselves a little unfortunate as they lost the game to a last minute goal scored from a long shot by Harry Nuttall by which time the light was very poor.

It was the fifth time that Bolton had been Lancashire Cup winners. They were now in second place in the all-time winners list, but they were well behind the leaders Blackburn Rovers who were now on 11 wins.

1925-26

With no changes to the list of participating teams the Lancashire Cup was unchanged in structure from the 1924-25 season.

It was to be a mixed season for the Division Three North teams. Nelson and Southport were to emerge successfully from the First Round games, but in the Second Round they were to suffer humiliating defeats. Southport were defeated 9-0 at Manchester United, while Nelson were defeated 6-0 at home by Bolton Wanderers.

However while their contemporaries struggled, Third Division Accrington Stanley produced some outstanding results which saw them reach the Final. After defeating Wigan Borough and Stockport County in the first two rounds, Accrington were 2-1 winners over Preston North End in the Third Round. Preston had rested a couple of first teamers, but they had still managed to field a strong side which included the renowned Alex James. In their Semi-Final Accrington pulled off a well deserved 2-1 win over Manchester City, but this result was at a cost, with one of their leading players Edgar Powell receiving a serious ankle injury.

Their opponents in the Final were Bury, who had won through with a 3-1 victory at Blackburn Rovers, a 2-1 home win over Everton, and in the Semi-Final they had been 3-1 winners at Oldham Athletic.

The Final was played at Bolton's Burnden Park on the Saturday after the completion of the Football League season. There was quite a difference in the league status of the two teams - Bury had finished the season in fourth place in Division One, while Accrington had finished fifth from the bottom of Division Three North. On the day Bury proved to be too strong for Stanley, winning the game by a resounding 5-2 scoreline. The five Bury goals were all scored by different players, with each of their forwards getting their name on the scoresheet.

It was the fifth time that Bury had been Lancashire Cup winners, which meant that they now had the same number of wins as their neighbours Bolton Wanderers. Three players, Norman Bullock, Jimmy Porter, and Billy Stage, were survivors from their last appearance in a Lancashire Cup Final in 1921-22 when they had been defeated by Bolton.

Bolton Wanderers 1925-26

1926-27

This season Stockport County were no longer among the entrants. This left New Brighton as the only Cheshire-based team still playing in the competition.

For the third season running Preston North End were drawn to play Blackpool. With both teams having previously won a tie on their opponents ground, this time it went to form with the higher placed Preston defeating their fellow Division Two side by a 3-2 scoreline.

Manchester City were to be involved in three big scoring games. In the Second Round they were 8-4 winners over Oldham Athletic, and in the Third Round they were 5-3 winners away to Accrington Stanley. However the tables were turned in the Semi-Final, when they were beaten 6-1 on their own ground by Bolton Wanderers.

Bolton's opponents in the Final were Bury. It was as early as November that it was decided that these two teams would be contesting the Final, but in the event the game itself was not played until the completion of the Football League season in May. Bury were the current holders of the Lancashire Cup, while Bolton had been the winners in the 1924-25 season. Also with both teams having previously won the Lancashire Cup on five occasions, there was some added interest as to which of the neighbouring clubs would gain the ascendancy. Unfortunately the occasion was to be soured, with Bury going into the game just two weeks after their full back Sam Wynne had collapsed and died when playing for them in a Football League match at Sheffield United.

For the third year running the Final was played at Burnden Park, and perhaps not too surprisingly it was home side Bolton who were 1-0 winners, with John Smith scoring the goal in what was a very close game.

It was the third time in six seasons that Bolton Wanderers had been Lancashire Cup winners, and most of their team had now amassed quite a collection of Lancashire Cup medals. Ted Vizard had been a member of their 1911-12 winning side and now had four winners medals and one losers medal. Jimmy Seddon now had three winners medals and one losers medal, while Billy Butler, David Jack, and Dick Pym all had three winners medals, and Alex Finney, Harry Greenhalgh, and Harry Nuttall each had two winners medals.

1927-28

Having been formed in 1878, this was the golden jubilee season for the Lancashire FA. Football had changed considerably, but almost fifty years on the Lancashire Cup remained an important means for the Lancashire FA to raise money to at least cover its running costs. After having declined as a competition of merit in the 1900s, it was now again considered worthwhile from both a 'playing' and a 'paying' point of view. For those clubs which reached the Final, it was an excellent way for them to finish the season with a last opportunity for them to pick up some silverware.

For the second year running Manchester City were involved in a 12-goal game in their opening Lancashire Cup tie. Improving on their 8-4 win over Oldham in 1926-27, this time they were 10-2 winners over Nelson. It was the first occasion in over 20 years that a team had scored as many as 10 goals in a game. Ironically the previous team to have achieved this now rare feat was Nelson who had defeated Black Lane Temperance by a 10-3 score in the 1904-05 season.

Having reached the previous two Finals, Bury were again in fine form in their Lancashire Cup ties. In the first two rounds they were 2-1 winners at Blackpool, and 4-0 home winners over Manchester United. In the Semi-Final they then gained revenge over Bolton Wanderers for their defeat in the previous seasons Final, winning the game 2-0 on their opponents ground.

Bury's opponents in the Final were Manchester City. It was the third successive season that Bury had reached the Final, while Manchester City had already been Lancashire Cup winners twice since the competition had been revived after the Great War.

As was now becoming the tradition, the Final was played on the Saturday after the completion of the Football League season. This season's Final tie proved to be a great attraction, with 25,000 in attendance at Old Trafford, and with gate receipts topping £1,000 for the first time since 1921-22. It was Manchester City who were comfortable winners. They had a 1-0 lead at half time, and eventually finished the game victors by a 3-1 scoreline. The Bury goal was scored by John Smith, who had also scored in the 1926-27 Final when playing for Bolton Wanderers against Bury.

It was Manchester City's third Lancashire Cup success of the 1920s, and their fourth Final in eight years. Despite this, there had been major playing staff changes at the club with Tommy Johnson being the only player to have appeared for them in any of their previous Finals. Another player Matt Barrass had previously played in a Lancashire Cup Final for Blackpool, but he was now picking up a Winners medal for the first time.

Bury had also recently been regular Lancashire Cup Finalists, with this being their fourth Final in seven years. Norman Bullock was the only player to have appeared in all four Finals, while Tom Adamson, Wally Amos, Jack Ball, and Tom Bradshaw, had now played in Lancashire Cup Finals in three successive years.

As they had done in the 1920-21 season, Manchester United made a claim for compensation as a result of damage done to their Old Trafford ground following the staging of a Final. This time the amount claimed was slightly higher, with the Lancashire FA agreeing to pay United a sum of £28 to cover the cost of the necessary repair work.

1928-29

It had become customary that Wigan Borough would make an early exit from the Lancashire Cup, but this season they were to at last have a little success. In the First Round they were 2-0 winners over Nelson, and in the Second Round they were 3-0 winners over Barrow after the teams had first played out a drawn game. Their reward was a Third Round home tie with Manchester United, and in a most exciting game the two teams shared the spoils with a 4-4 draw. The replay was also played at Wigan's Springfield Park, but this time the Borough were defeated 2-1 by the First Division side.

Bury had long been impressive in the Lancashire Cup, but this season they were to be put in their place. Having reached the Final in each of the three previous seasons, this time they were to go out at their first hurdle, with them being heavily defeated 6-1 by Liverpool.

In another Second Round game Everton were 3-1 winners at Preston. Although not a big surprise, it was a game in which Dixie Dean was to score one of his many hat-tricks for the Everton club. At this time he was the most prolific goalscorer that would ever be seen in senior English football. In the previous season he had scored 60 goals for Everton to set the record for the number of goals by a player in a Football League season.

Bolton Wanderers had looked impressive in their early games. In a Second Round replay they were 3-1 winners over Lancashire Cup holders Manchester City, and in a Third Round replay they were 7-2 winners over Liverpool. Their Semi-Final with Manchester United also went to a replay, but this time it was Bolton who were the losers being defeated by a 1-0 scoreline.

Manchester United's opponents in the Final were Blackburn Rovers. Although Blackburn had easily been the most successful club in the Lancashire Cup, it was actually their first appearance in a Final since the 1912-13 season. In the early rounds Blackburn had victories over Accrington Stanley and Blackpool, but their best result came in the Semi-Final when they were 4-1 winners away to Everton.

For the second year running the Final was played at Old Trafford, but this time as Manchester United were involved it was no longer a neutral venue. It proved to be a close game, with Rovers scoring first, only for United to come back with two goals before half-time to give them the lead. There were no further goals in the second half, with the Old Trafford men being able to hold on to complete a 2-1 victory.

It was the first time that Manchester United had been winners of the Lancashire Cup since their joint success with Liverpool in the 1919-20 season. However the Manchester United team had three players, Charlie Moore, Joe Spence, and Alf Steward, who were all survivors from that 1919-20 team some nine years earlier.

1929-30

Lancashire Cup holders Manchester United began their defence of the trophy with two big wins. In the Second Round they were 5-0 winners over Rochdale, and in the Third Round they were 6-1 winners over Bolton Wanderers. This set them up for an all-Manchester Semi-Final, but with Manchester City having home advantage it was the Maine Road men who were victorious and who were to reach the Lancashire Cup Final.

Their opponents in the Final were Burnley, who had experienced an easier sequence of games. They had reached the Final by defeating lower division opposition in New Brighton, Accrington Stanley, and then Bury.

The Final was played at Maine Road, with home side City running out easy 3-0 winners. This was quite an exceptional result as Manchester City were a side that had been crippled by injuries, with two players having to leave the field of play for lengthy periods. Matt Barrass was injured as early as the 2nd minute, although he did return to the game after receiving treatment. Less lucky was Bill Ridding, who was injured and off the pitch for most of the game.

It was Manchester City's fourth Lancashire Cup success in ten years, and it was the third season running that the trophy had been won by a Manchester club. Seven of the Manchester City players were picking up their second Lancashire Cup winners medals.

This had been Burnley's first appearance in a Lancashire Cup Final since the 1914-15 season. Since the Great War the Lancashire Cup had been dominated by Bolton Wanderers, Bury, Liverpool, and the two Manchester clubs. It would still be many more years before any of what could be considered the old guard of Blackburn Rovers, Burnley, or Preston North End, would again take possession of the Lancashire Cup trophy.

When the Final was actually played the Football League season was over with Burnley in 21st place in Division One and doomed for relegation to the Second Division. It was a bad year for Lancashire teams - bottom of the First Division and relegated with Burnley were Everton, a team which just two years earlier had been Football League Champions.

1930-31

This was the first season that the Lancashire FA were to formally record the attendances at all Lancashire Cup ties. As the Lancashire FA only recorded those spectators who had paid to gain entry to matches, the attendances given in local newspapers were often slightly higher than their 'official' figures. Overall the attendances must have been slightly disappointing, although it must be remembered that all games except the Final were being played in winter on mid-week afternoons.

It is perhaps not too surprising that the game which attracted the biggest crowd of the competition was the Second Round tie between Liverpool and Everton. The home supporters were to witness a 5-0 thrashing of their near neighbours, who were then more interested in securing a quick return to the First Division.

Oddly the lowest crowd recorded was for the Third Round tie between Preston North End and New Brighton. In this game Second Division Preston were 5-1 winners in front of a Deepdale crowd of just 842, one of only two games in the competition that would attract an attendance of less than 1,000.

The two Finalists were Liverpool and Manchester United. Liverpool had been a little fortunate with the draw, having played all their games at home. They had turned in some good performances, and after their big win over Everton had been victorious over Burnley and Preston North End.

Liverpool were again to have home advantage in the Final. On the day they were winners by a convincing 4-0 scoreline, which ensured that the Lancashire Cup would not go to Manchester for a fourth successive season. In winning the Lancashire Cup Liverpool had produced a great display. They were 2-0 up at half time, but had then bided their time before scoring two late goals to confirm their supremacy.

In goal for Liverpool was veteran Elisha Scott, who was playing in his fifth Lancashire Cup Final and was picking up his

fourth winners medal. Another long-serving Liverpool player was Tommy Lucas, who was playing in his third winning Final.

1931-32

This season there was a reduction by one in the number of Lancashire-based Football League clubs. The reason for this was that Nelson had been voted out of the Football League at the end of the 1930-31 season. Nelson's exclusion meant that the First Round now necessitated just one game, with the winning club joining the other 15 clubs in the Second Round.

The attendances in the early rounds were down on the previous season. This time round an Everton versus Liverpool tie only attracted a 6,675 crowd, while a Manchester United versus Manchester City tie only attracted 3,492. The lowest crowd of the competition was for the Wigan Borough versus Oldham Athletic tie, which attracted just 560 paying spectators. At this time Wigan were actually in serious financial trouble. They had managed to complete their Lancashire Cup obligations when they were defeated 4-0 in a replay at Oldham, but just two weeks later on October 26th they were to tender their resignation from the Football League, and soon after the club was effectively no more.

For this season the competition took its mid-season break after the completion of the Third Round, with the Semi-Finals and Final being played towards the end of the season.

The two Finalists were Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City. On their way to the Final Bolton had three times been held to a draw, only to then pull off a big victory in the replay. In the Third Round they had defeated Liverpool by 8 goals to one, quite an extraordinary defeat for the holders of a competition. However just to prove that this was no fluke, Bolton had also been able to defeat Liverpool 8-1 in the First Division in their last home game of the season. Keeping their liking for big scores, Bolton had defeated Blackpool 5-1 in their Lancashire Cup Semi-Final.

The Final was played at Maine Road, and on the day there was very little to choose between the two sides. Manchester City twice took the lead only for Bolton to come back and equalise each time, and at the interval the score stood at 2-2. In what was described as a great game, it was Bolton who went on to score the deciding goal in the second half to win the cup by a 3-2 scoreline. Strangely during the game Manchester City had worn two different sets of shirts. In the first half they had been wearing Cambridge-blue coloured shirts, but this had caused some confusion with Bolton's colours. For the second half their players came out wearing a kit of darker Oxford-blue coloured shirts.

It was Bolton Wanderers seventh success in the Lancashire Cup. Their winning team included Billy Butler, who was picking up his fourth winners medal. Other survivors from Bolton's successful teams of the 1920s were Alex Finney who had now played in three winning Final teams, and George Gibson who had now played in two winning Final teams.

1932-33

With the demise of Wigan Borough in the 1931-32 season, this meant that there was yet another enforced reduction in the number of participants. The Lancashire Cup entrants now consisted exactly 16 teams. There were 15 Lancashire based teams plus 'guest' team New Brighton. At least with 16 teams, the organisation of the competition was again more straightforward with all teams going into the draw right from the start.

The biggest score of the First Round was Everton's 6-1 victory over Burnley. In the next round, Everton were paired with Preston North End. The two teams played out a drawn game at Goodison Park, but in the replay Everton were themselves subjected to a heavy defeat, losing 6-2 to the Second Division side.

For the second season running the Semi-Finals were delayed until late in the season, and for the first time since 1922 a Semi-Final was played on a Saturday. This was possible because Bolton Wanderers and Preston North End both had a blank day from their Football League commitments due to their opponents being involved in FA Cup 6th Round ties.

The two Finalists were Bolton Wanderers and Liverpool. As in 1930-31 Liverpool had been most fortunate with the draw. Again they had played all their games at Anfield, up to and including the Final. They had recorded comfortable wins over New Brighton, Accrington Stanley, and Blackpool, and in the Final they were able to gain ample revenge for their heavy defeat to Bolton in the previous season. Liverpool had a 1-0 lead at half-time. Bolton then equalised, but it was a late goal from Alf Hanson which brought the cup back once more to Liverpool.

In Harold Barton, Gordon Hodgson, Archie McPherson, and Tom Morrison, Liverpool had four players in their side who had also represented them when they had been Lancashire Cup winners two years previously. Another player Tom Bradshaw had already turned out in three Lancashire Cup Finals as a Bury player, and had now joined the select band of players to have been on the winning side for two different clubs.

Interestingly in attendance at the match were the Everton players and officials. They had just become FA Cup winners, and had brought the prized FA Cup trophy along with them to show the Liverpool public. Looking back this may now seem a rather strange thing to happen, but not for the first time the two trophies were to be displayed side-by-side.

1933-34

The Lancashire FA had concerns that the Lancashire Cup was in decline. Before the start of the season, when information was sent out about the county cup draws, the member clubs were reminded 'This is your competition. Please do all you can to make it a success'.

The Lancashire Cup was played as a 16 team competition for the second season running. However a couple of the results in the First Round gave the impression that some of the bigger clubs were still not treating the Lancashire Cup as that high a priority. Barrow were 2-1 winners at Manchester United, while Accrington Stanley were 2-1 winners over Preston North End. Preston were actually to be fined £25 for fielding a weak team in this match. A degree of normality was restored in the Second Round, with both Accrington and Barrow suffering heavy defeats at the hands of bigger clubs.

In the First Round Liverpool were 8-0 winners over Southport, but this was not the end of Southport's woes. They were subsequently fined 10 shillings for playing an ineligible player, whose name had not been submitted in accordance with the rules.

The two Finalists were Bolton Wanderers and Oldham Athletic. It was Bolton's third successive appearance in a Lancashire Cup Final, while Oldham were in the Final for the first time since the 1918-19 season. Both teams were playing in the Second Division, although Bolton had only just missed out on promotion in the 1933-34 season.

Oldham had produced a couple of impressive victories in reaching the Final. In the Third Round they had defeated Lancashire Cup holders Liverpool 4-0, and in the Semi-Final they had defeated Blackburn Rovers 3-1.

The Final was played at Manchester City's Maine Road ground, this being the first time a Final had been played on a neutral ground since the 1927-28 season. The game turned out to be a six goal thriller. Oldham opened the scoring, only for Bolton to equalise and then take a 2-1 lead. Just before half time Oldham themselves came back to equalise the scores at 2-2 with a penalty. In the second half Bolton were to take control of the game, scoring two more goals to record a fine 4-2 victory. Two of the Bolton goals were scored by Ray Westwood, a player who had also scored in the 1932-33 Final when Bolton had been defeated 2-1 by Liverpool.

It was Bolton's eighth Lancashire Cup win, but they were still three wins behind leaders Blackburn Rovers on the honours board. However in practice Bolton were now fast closing the gap on their old rivals, having won the Lancashire Cup six times since Blackburn had last been victorious. The Bolton side included Alex Finney, who was playing for them in his fifth Lancashire Cup Final. He now had four winners medals and just one losers medal.

Despite the Lancashire FA's warning letter sent out at the start of the season, attendances in the Lancashire Cup had continued to decline. The Final attracted a crowd of just 6,173, while only one of the other 15 games in the competition had attracted an attendance in excess of 4,000.

At the end of the season the Lancashire FA sent out another circular to all clubs playing in the Lancashire Cup. They expressed concerns about the competition from both a playing and a financial point of view. The Finance Committee re-affirmed that the Lancashire Cup was the Lancashire FA's chief source of income, and it was indicated that there needed to be an increased interest in the competition in order to guarantee that enough money could be raised to keep the Association afloat.

A number of proposals were suggested - that the draw be made with closer geographical groupings - that there be exemptions for the bigger clubs - that all games be played on Saturdays - that clubs must play their best available players - that there subsequently be a game between the Lancashire Cup winners and a selected club. It was also recognised that a way forward might be to allow some of the leading non-league clubs back into the competition.

1934-35

Following on from a special meeting held to discuss the proposed alterations to the Lancashire Cup, a number of changes were introduced for the 1934-35 season.

After just two seasons as a 16 team competition the Lancashire Cup was expanded to 22 teams. The 16 that had played in 1933-34 were joined by six non-league clubs - Chorley, Darwen, Horwich RMI, Lancaster Town, and Rossendale United all from the Lancashire Combination, and Wigan Athletic from the Cheshire League. It was the first time since 1918-19 that any non-league clubs had been allowed to play in the competition. However there was one difference from previous seasons in that these clubs were also allowed to take part in the Lancashire Junior Cup competition.

There was now an acceptance that Football League clubs did not want to field full strength teams in their Lancashire Cup ties.

It was a welcome return for Darwen, who had been the first ever winners of the Lancashire Cup. They were amongst the entrants for the first time since the 1908-09 season, while Chorley and Rossendale United were also back in the competition after a lengthy gap. The other three non-league clubs, Horwich RMI, Lancaster Town, and Wigan Athletic, were making their first ever appearances in the Lancashire Cup.

A team from Horwich had played in the Lancashire Cup before, but this was the first and only appearance of the impressively named Horwich Railway Mechanics Institute football club. However the origins of Horwich RMI are a little confused, and it is quite possible that the earlier club was a forerunner of the RMI. In 1995 the club re-located from Horwich, taking the name Leigh RMI.

It was the first time that a Lancaster club had ever played in the Lancashire Cup. It had taken football a long time to get established in Lancaster, but in the 1920s Lancaster Town had become one of the county's leading non-league clubs. In the 1933-34 season they had been winners of the Lancashire Junior Cup. Just a few years later Lancaster would be granted city status, and from the 1937-38 season they would be known as Lancaster City.

Wigan Athletic had been formed in 1932 to replace the defunct Wigan Borough. They were to be the last in a series of professional clubs to have represented the town. Although they were to be a successful non-league club for a great many years, they would eventually become a Football League club in 1978 and subsequently would be winners of the Lancashire Cup.

In a format similar to the 'Yorkshire' method that had been used in the earliest seasons of the Lancashire Cup, all 22 clubs went into the First Round draw. The non-league clubs managed to avoid each other, and there were some interesting results. Wigan Athletic were 3-1 winners at Accrington Stanley, Horwich RMI were 4-3 winners at New Brighton, while Rossendale United were 1-0 winners at Burnley after the two teams had drawn 3-3 in the first game at Rossendale. These results are perhaps a little misleading, as most of the Football League clubs had fielded reserve sides. On the day that Horwich RMI had beaten New Brighton, the Cheshire side had also played a Football League match at Crewe Alexandra.

From the Second Round on, games were played on Saturday afternoons, which meant that the Football League sides now had little option but to field their reserves. In this round Rossendale United produced another great result in winning 2-1 at Manchester United. Wigan Athletic lost narrowly to Liverpool, while Horwich RMI were heavily defeated 8-1 by Preston North End's reserve side.

The Third Round comprised just two games, with two clubs receiving a bye to ensure that there would be four teams left at the Semi-Final stage. Rossendale United were beaten 2-1 at home by Liverpool, while Everton were 6-1 winners at Oldham Athletic.

The four Semi-Finalists were Bury, Everton, Liverpool, and Preston North End. It was reported that Preston were very keen to win the Lancashire Cup in the first season of the new structure. In the event, they were defeated 4-1 at home by Everton in a game that attracted 7,569, the biggest attendance of the competition. In the other game Bury triumphed over Liverpool.

The Final was played at Goodison Park, with Everton defeating the Shakers. Bury had actually taken the lead, only for Everton to equalise the scores before half time and go on to win the match 3-1 in the second half. Both sides fielded their reserves, as they also had Football League games on the same day. The Lady Mayoress of Liverpool presented the cup and medals, but it was a game that only attracted a crowd of 2,000, which must have been a great disappointment for the Lancashire FA. It was the lowest crowd for a Lancashire Cup Final since the 1914-15 season, when the poor turn-out could then at least be explained because the game had been played while the country was at war. One of the reasons given for the poor turn out was that the game was played on the same day as the FA Cup Final, with people staying at home to listen to the broadcasting of this match on the radio.

Although both teams had fielded their reserves, the Bury team had included three players with experience of Lancashire Cup Finals in better days. Wally Amos and Jimmy Porter had now played in four Finals, having both picked up a Winners medal in the 1925-26 season when Bury had beaten Accrington Stanley in the Final. George Bradshaw did not go back quite so far, but he had played for them in 1927-28 when they had been defeated by Manchester City in the Final.

It was the fourth time that Everton had been Lancashire Cup winners, and it was their first success since the 1909-10 season. In winning the cup they had brought an end to a period of domination by a select group of just five teams. In the previous 16 seasons of the competition the only names to appear on the trophy had been Bolton Wanderers, Bury, Liverpool, Manchester City, and Manchester United.

The new format of the Lancashire Cup had not really been a success. However overall attendances in the earlier rounds had been slightly higher than the previous season, while there had certainly been some interesting results when non-league teams had come up against the senior clubs. On the negative side the Lancashire Cup was now openly a competition for reserve teams, and the Final itself was no longer a spectacle that attracted the interest of the paying spectators.

Finalists Bury were particularly unhappy, saying that the new Lancashire Cup format had been a disaster for them, and that they had lost £150 despite them having reached the

Final. They also made the criticism that few Lancashire FA officials had actually been present at the Final. Preston North End and Everton were two powerful clubs who championed the new format, and despite Bury's protestations it was decided that there would be no significant changes for the following season.

1935-36

Despite some misgivings, the format of the previous season was retained. However there was one change in the line-up of non-league clubs involved, with Fleetwood taking over the place of Horwich RMI. In the 1934-35 season Fleetwood had been Lancashire Junior Cup winners and Lancashire Combination runners-up.

As in the previous season First Round games were played mid-week, while it was the intention that all later games be played on Saturday afternoons.

The First Round saw even more giant-killing performances than there had been in the 1934-35 season. Darwen were 1-0 winners over Oldham Athletic, Lancaster Town were 1-0 winners over Manchester City, Rossendale United were 1-0 winners over Bolton Wanderers, and Wigan Athletic were 2-1 winners over Bury. With the majority of Football League sides fielding wholly reserve sides, Blackburn played a mix of first teamers and reserves in their 1-0 win over Burnley. The paying attendance was just 747, and ironically this was for a pairing which in later years would guarantee the highest crowds of the competition.

In the Second Round Rossendale were 3-1 winners over Preston North End, but in the Third Round they were defeated 3-1 at home by Blackpool. It had been another impressive season for Rossendale, with them again having defeated two Football League clubs in the first two rounds of the competition.

Wigan Athletic were to do even better than Rossendale. In the Second Round they were 5-1 winners at Darwen. They received a bye in Round 3, and then in the Semi-Final were 2-0 winners over Manchester United at Old Trafford. This meant that Wigan were the first non-league club to have reached the Lancashire Cup Final since Rochdale in the 1914-15 season.

Their opponents in the Final were Blackpool, who had won four ties to reach this stage. In the first two rounds they had good away wins at Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers, and then after defeating non-leaguers Rossendale, they had been 9-0 winners over Southport in the Semi-Final. This was the most comprehensive victory in a Lancashire Cup tie since Manchester City's 10-2 win over Nelson in 1927-28.

The Final was played at Bloomfield Road, with Blackpool fielding a side comprising a mixture of first teamers and reserves. Despite this they were able to pull off a most decisive victory over their non-league opponents. Blackpool were 6-2 winners, with both Jimmy McIntosh and Bobby Finan scoring three goals apiece. Wigan had actually opened the scoring in the very first minute, only for Blackpool to then take over the game. They were on level terms as early as the 9th minute, then took the lead with Finan scoring from a fine overhead shot. It was 3-1 at half time, then went to 5-1, before Wigan pulled one back only for Finan to complete the scoring at 6-2.

It was the first time that Blackpool had been Lancashire Cup winners. Although they had twice before been losing Finalists, until this season they were the most senior Lancashire club never to have recorded a Lancashire Cup Final victory. At the beginning of the season Joe Smith had been appointed Blackpool manager. As a former Bolton Wanderers player he had already got three Lancashire Cup winners medals to his name, and as a manager in 23 years his Blackpool teams would be victorious on four occasions.

1936-37

After two seasons, the Lancashire Cup was re-constituted as a 16 club competition. It was again restricted to Football League clubs only, with exactly the same teams participating that had been playing before the format had last been changed for the 1934-35 season. It was again the instruction that clubs should field their best available teams in the competition.

It was recognised that the Lancashire FA needed to raise at least £600 from the Lancashire Cup to cover its running costs. From this season it was agreed that the participating clubs would make up any deficiency if there was a shortfall in the money received from gate receipts in the competition.

In the previous two years the non-league clubs had performed more than adequately. Wigan Athletic had been Lancashire Cup Finalists, Rossendale had defeated four Football League clubs and had twice reached the last six in the competition, while most of the other non-leaguers had beaten at least one Football League club. Perhaps the competition was seen to have been devalued with non-league teams doing so well at the expense of their senior counterparts.

Despite the changes, the revised structure did not see any increase in the size of the attendances, with crowds being down on the 1935-36 season.

The two Finalists were Blackburn Rovers and Blackpool. In the First Round Blackburn's first team had defeated Liverpool's reserves. Following this Rovers had then recorded victories over Rochdale and Bolton Wanderers to reach their first Lancashire Cup Final for eight seasons. Blackpool began their defence of the trophy with a win over Bury, which was reported to have been played with 'a go as you please attitude'. They had then produced two great results in defeating Manchester City and Manchester United.

For the second year running the Final was played at Bloomfield Road, and again it was played on the second Saturday in May. Despite Blackburn undoubtedly being better quality opposition for the Seasiders, it was interesting to see that the crowd was considerably lower than it had been the previous season when non-leaguers Wigan Athletic had been the opposition.

Blackburn scored first, but yet again it was the first goalscorers who were to lose the game. This time it was Blackpool who were 2-1 winners, with goals from Jimmy McIntosh and Bobby Finan, the two players who had each scored hat tricks in the 1935-36 Final. In an exciting finish Finan had actually scored the winning goal for Blackpool in the dying seconds of the game. It was described as an entertaining Final, which was said to have been spoilt by some rough tactics when tempers had flared. On two occasions Blackburn goalkeeper Jim Barron had punched Blackpool's Alec Munro in the face, although it was said that this had been done by accident. Evidently some members of the Blackpool crowd did not agree, and once the Final whistle had gone Barron was chased from the field by spectators with the police having to go to his aid.

Later the Lancashire FA were critical on how referee JE Williams had officiated, believing he had not controlled the game adequately. They were also unhappy that for some reason he had chosen to dispense with a half time interval, with the teams changing ends and resuming play with no break.

It was the second successive season that Blackpool had been Lancashire Cup winners. After previously never having won the trophy, they had become the first team to have won the competition outright two years running since Manchester United had done this in the 1912-13 and 1913-14 seasons.

For this Final, Blackpool fielded a much stronger team than they had for the 1935-36 Final, with goalkeeper Jock Wallace, and forwards Bobby Finan and Jimmy McIntosh, the only players to have appeared in both games. Looking back this must have been a frustrating time for McIntosh. He had scored a hat trick in the 1935-36 Lancashire Cup Final, yet had not played a single league match for Blackpool in the 1936-37 season. He was then given a chance in the 1936-37 Lancashire Cup Final, and had once again proved himself as a goalscorer.

At the end of the season the Lancashire FA spelt out the competitions finances. In 1936-37 they had received total gate receipts of £750-13s-10d, but this had been reduced to just £336-10s-9d once all expenses and club deductions had been made. This meant that there was a shortfall of £263-9s-3d, which would need to be made up by the participating clubs as had been agreed. It was formulated that Division One clubs would pay 60%, that Division Two clubs would pay 30%, and that Division Three clubs would pay 10%. In practice Preston North End were asked for £26-7s-0d while the other Division One clubs were asked for £26-6s-11d each, the Division Two clubs were asked for £19-5s-2d each, and the Division Three clubs were asked for £4-7s-0d each.

1937-38

There was a change for the 1937-38 season with all Lancashire Cup games being played towards the end of the season. The recommendation from the Lancashire FA had been that games not be played until after Easter. In the event one First Round game was played at the end of March, but four of the ties were not decided until the last week in April. This meant that the Second Round, Semi-Finals, and Final all had to be played to a conclusion during the first two weeks of May.

First and Second Division clubs were requested to play 'their best available team', while Third Division clubs were asked to play 'their best team'. In the Final it was expected that both clubs would play their full strength team.

After having been losing Semi-Finalists in each of the previous two seasons, it was to be third time lucky for Manchester United. They were 3-1 winners over Liverpool in the First Round, and then in the Second Round were 1-0 winners away to Accrington Stanley. A place in the Final was achieved by a 4-1 victory over fellow Second Division side Blackburn Rovers.

Their opponents in the Final were Southport. The Third Division North side had produced some great displays on their route to the Final, although they were helped in two instances by their opponents allowing them to host a replay after they had already staged the original drawn game. Clearly there was a greater interest in the Lancashire Cup for clubs like Southport, who would relish a victory over those teams playing in a higher division. It took Southport a replay to defeat leading Division One sides Preston North End and Bolton Wanderers, and in their Semi-Final they were 2-1 winners over Burnley.

With the Final also being played at Haig Avenue, this meant that Southport had been the home side in all six games that they had played in the competition. The Final attracted a respectable crowd of 7,931, although on the day it was Manchester United who were the victors scoring the only goal of the game. The goal, a header by Jack Smith in the second half, was described as a gem of a goal, although it was scored in unfortunate circumstances with Southport goalkeeper Joe Rutherford off the field with an injury. It was reported that Manchester United had deserved their victory, although they had not shown the same form that had won them promotion from the Second Division that season.

At the game, the FA Cup trophy again made an appearance alongside the Lancashire Cup. Preston North End had become FA Cup winners just two weeks earlier, and they allowed the trophy to be displayed at the Lancashire Cup Final on the proviso that there be a collection to raise funds for a charity. On the day £34 was raised for the Markham Colliery Disaster Fund.

It was the sixth time that Manchester United had taken possession of the Lancashire Cup. Only Blackburn Rovers and Bolton Wanderers now had a higher number of wins than them in the competition.

1938-39

After the experiment of playing all Lancashire Cup games late in the season, reason prevailed and it was decided that a more practical solution was that the early round games should again be played in the first half of the season.

As it turned out this was probably a timely decision, for two of the First Round ties were to go to three games before a winner could be found. Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers first played a 4-4 draw, then shared a 2-2 draw with extra time being played, before in the third game Liverpool defeated the Rovers by a 6-1 scoreline. The tie between Oldham Athletic and Rochdale proved even harder to find a winner. The teams shared a 0-0 draw, then shared a 2-2 draw after extra time, before Oldham triumphed 2-1 in another game which went to extra time.

In the Second Round Liverpool were drawn to play Everton, and again their tie went to three games before Liverpool could emerge as the victors. Attendances for these games were good for the competition, but were certainly no better than would be expected at Central League games. The two games played at Anfield saw crowds of 5,127 and 6,726, while the game at Goodison Park attracted just 2,068.

Having already played six games in two rounds, Liverpool were defeated 1-0 at home by Preston North End in their Semi-Final tie. The other Semi-Final saw Bolton Wanderers defeat Manchester City 4-0. It was just five years since Bolton had last reached the Lancashire Cup Final, but this was Preston's first appearance in the Final since the 1907-08 season.

The Final was played at Deepdale on the Wednesday after the completion of the Football League season. It was the first time that a Lancashire Cup Final had not been played on a Saturday since the 1924-25 season. In what was described as a 'nice friendly game', George Hunt opened the scoring for Bolton, only for emergency centre forward Alex Millar to net a late goal for Preston to level the scores at 1-1.

It was decided that no extra time would be played, but that a replay would be arranged to take place early in the 1939-40 season. It was decided that the purchase of the players medals would be deferred until the outcome of the Final replay was known, but in the event the replay was never played due to the outbreak of war. Following the precedent set in the 1919-20 season Bolton and Preston were subsequently declared joint winners of the Lancashire Cup.

The Bolton Wanderers team included several players with experience of Lancashire Cup Finals. Jack Atkinson, Harry Goslin, and Ray Westwood, all had Winners medals after playing for Bolton Wanderers in previous Lancashire Cup Finals, while Albert Geldard was in possession of a Winners medal from 1934-35 when he had scored two goals in Everton's 3-1 defeat of Bury in that seasons Final.

In the Preston North End team was Jimmy McIntosh, the former Blackpool reserve who was already in possession of two Lancashire Cup Winners medals from the 1935-36 and 1936-37 seasons. Also in their side was Bill Shankly, who would later achieve much distinction as manager of Liverpool.

The rule still applied that the clubs would make up any shortfall if the Lancashire FA did not receive £600 from the Lancashire Cup. This season total receipts were £924-13s-6d, but after deductions this was reduced to £445-11s-8d, which meant that there was a £154-8s-4d deficit. It was again a time for the Football League clubs to get their cheque books out, with First Division clubs being asked to pay £15-8s-10d each, with Second Division clubs being asked to pay £11-11s-8d each, and with Third Division clubs being asked to pay £2-11s-6d each.

Preston North End Football Club, Limited.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday Evening, May 10th, 1939

(PRICE ONE PENNY)

LANCASHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL

Kick-off - 7-0 p.m.

PRESTON NORTH END

(Colours : White shirts, blue knickers)

Right Left

1 FAIRBROTHER

2 GALLIMORE 3 SUMMERBEE

4 SHANKLY 5 BATEY 6 MILNE

7 WHITE 8 MUTCH 9 MILLAR 10 R. BEATTIE 11 McINTOSH

O

12 ROTHWELL 13 WESTWOOD 14 HUNT 15 SINCLAIR 16 GELDARD

17 HURST 18 ATKINSON 19 GOSLIN

20 HUBBICK 21 WINTER

22 HANSON

BOLTON WANDERERS

(Colours : Red shirts, white knickers)

Left Right

Referee : E. W. BAKER (Manchester)

Linesmen : R. HARDERN (Red Stripe) I. D. TAYLOR (Blue stripe)

MUSICAL PROGRAMME

1. Great Waltz, Part 1 ..... Blue Hungarian Band
2. Great Waltz, Part 2 ..... Blue Hungarian Band
3. Grand Old Victors ..... The Band of H.M. Royal Air Force
4. Jolly Brothers ..... Victor Silvester's Ballroom Melodists
5. Venetian Carnival ..... The Band of H.M. Royal Air Force
6. Serenade ..... Queen Marlene
7. Royal Air Force March Past ..... H.M. Coldstream Guards
8. Blaze Away ..... H.M. Coldstream Guards
9. Dance Bagatelle, Part 1 ..... Reginald Dixon
10. On the March, Part 2 ..... H.M. Coldstream Guards

HALF-TIME

1. Dance Bagatelle Medley - Part 2 ..... Reginald Dixon
2. On the March, Part 1 ..... H.M. Coldstream Guards

To-day we bid farewell to season 1938-39 good-bye, with a fitting climax—The Lancashire Senior Cup Final between Bolton Wanderers and ourselves.

Both clubs have enjoyed a really good season, and have finished in the top half of the League Table.

It is many years since Preston North End won the Lancashire Senior Cup, and no effort will be spared to-night to achieve this distinction.

We extend a cordial welcome to Bolton Wanderers and our visitors from other Clubs, and express the hope that this Final will provide football of a calibre that has been even equal to that of Deepdale this Season.

In closing, we would just like to express our appreciation of the excellent support afforded us this season.

1939-40

This was a season that had begun under a shadow, with the prospect that the country would soon be going to war with Germany. In the event most clubs had played just three Football League games when war was actually declared, and immediately following this announcement all organised football was temporarily suspended. There was a period of time while the situation was evaluated by the authorities, but within weeks regional football was started up with certain restrictions in place on the numbers allowed to attend matches.

The Lancashire FA at first deferred a decision on the completion of the 1938-39 Lancashire Cup competition, and on the commencement of the 1939-40 competition. Although the previous seasons Final was never re-played, it was decided that the 1939-40 Lancashire Cup competition should go ahead.

For this season there was an extra team accepted into the competition, with Chester taking up a place in the Lancashire Cup for the first time. With 17 clubs now involved, a Qualifying Round game was played between the two 'outsiders', with New Brighton winning 2-1 at Chester to earn a place in the First Round.

When the First Round was played three weeks later, three clubs had decided that they did not want to take part in the competition. Those scratching were Manchester City, Manchester United, and one of the joint holders of the Lancashire Cup Preston North End. The Lancashire FA asked Preston to re-consider their decision, but they remained adamant that they did not wish to participate. Bury were another club who had wanted to scratch from the competition, but this request had been successfully over-ruled by the Lancashire FA.

Although only five games were played in the First Round, it was remarked that this was the first occasion for 40 years that a complete programme of First Round games had been played on the same Saturday afternoon.

The Second Round saw some big scores, and with teams fielding unfamiliar sides often with a number of guest players, there were some strange results. In particular Accrington Stanley were 7-1 winners over Oldham Athletic, while Everton were 6-0 winners at Blackburn Rovers.

At the Semi-Final stage, Bury were 4-0 winners over Accrington, and Everton were 4-1 winners over Liverpool. This Merseyside derby attracted a crowd of 13,000, which was the biggest attendance in the Lancashire Cup since the 1931-32 season.

The Final between Bury and Everton was played on June 8th, almost two months after the second Semi-Final had been decided. For many years it had been the accepted thing that the Lancashire Cup Final be staged after the league season had finished, but this was the first time it had ever been played as late as June.

Although Bury had home advantage it was Everton who were victorious by a 4-2 scoreline. For much of the game Bury had looked the better side, but it was the experienced Everton who had triumphed with two of their goals coming from Tommy Lawton, who was at this time England's leading centre forward.

Included in the Everton side was Stan Bentham, who was picking up his second Winners medal, after having previously been a member of the Everton 'reserves' side which had been Lancashire Cup winners in 1934-35. He was now a first team regular, but at the time he had won his first medal he had then not even played in the Everton first team.

This season the Lancashire FA was in dispute with the Football League over the payment of bonuses. The Football League objected that their players could receive bonus payments for taking part in Lancashire Cup games. The Lancashire FA felt this was none of their business, and said that they were answerable only to the Football Association itself.

The 1939-40 competition had been a profitable one for the Lancashire FA. It was said that if the additional three First Round ties had actually been played, then this would have been the best year financially for 35 years. Certainly there was no request this season that the participating clubs be asked to send cheques to the Lancashire FA to supplement the gate receipts.

1940-41

The second wartime season saw the Lancashire Cup again played, but it was now in a slightly different format which would continue to be used until the 1946-47 season. From this season the ties in the first two rounds were to be played over two legs, with the opposing teams playing each other home and away, and with the tie being decided by the aggregate score. If after normal time in the second leg the scores were level, then extra time would be played to try and determine a winner. A further complication was that results from these games would also count in the Football League North which was played through the season to give clubs an element of competitive football. However if extra time was necessary for the Lancashire Cup tie, then it would be ignored for Football League North purposes.

There were a number of changes in the clubs taking part in the Lancashire Cup. New to the competition were Wrexham, who were the first Welsh club to have played in the Lancashire Cup. Back in the fold were Manchester City and Manchester United, who had both scratched during the previous season. Preston North End again opted to stay out of the competition, while Accrington Stanley and Barrow were missing from those clubs taking part in 1939-40. As a club Accrington Stanley were now much reduced in status, and for this season they were playing their football in the Blackburn Combination. Due to their geographic isolation and the associated transport problems, Barrow had all but closed down as a football club for the duration of the war.

With the number of entrants down on the previous season, consideration had been given to the possibility that some leading non-league clubs be invited to take part, but this was not pursued. In practice things could have been worse. Blackpool and Bolton Wanderers had both closed down for the 1940-41 season, only to later have a change of mind. They did not play any games in the first half of the season, and effectively only returned to action with the playing of their Lancashire Cup ties. For the first two rounds it was decided that clubs be drawn together with approximate geographical pairings. With 15 clubs in the competition, Burnley were to be given a bye in the First Round.

First Round ties were played on the first two Saturdays in January, with extra time being necessary for only one of the ties. Bolton Wanderers had defeated Oldham Athletic 2-1 in the first leg, only to be losing 2-1 at full time in the second leg. The Football League North game was a 2-1 win for Oldham, but in extra time Bolton turned the tables to win the match 5-3 and the tie 7-4. Attendances were quite low, with four being less than 1,000, and with Chester only attracting 440 for their home game with Southport.

The Second Round commenced the following week, but games were not completed until near the end of the season. Burnley and Everton had played their first leg on January 25th, but did not play their second leg until May 3rd. Chester were again the poorest supported club, with just 400 paying spectators being present for their 7-1 victory over New Brighton.

The Semi-Finals were played as single leg matches. Manchester United were 6-4 winners at Chester after extra time, while Burnley were 1-0 winners over Blackpool.

The Final was played at Turf Moor, and it was visitors Manchester United who were 1-0 winners, with the goal coming from Johnny Carey. As a cost cutting exercise, this season the players were presented with miniature cups rather than with medals as had been the tradition. In previous seasons it had become customary that the match ball be presented to the winning side. On this occasion Manchester United handed the ball back to the Lancashire FA to be auctioned, and as a result £2-10s-0d was raised for the local spitfire fund.

1941-42

The 1941-42 season saw a reduction of one in the number of entrants. Missing from the participants were New Brighton and Wrexham, but new to the competition were Stockport County, who had last played in the Lancashire Cup in the 1925-26 season. The Lancashire FA made attempts to bring the numbers up to 16, but Preston North End stubbornly continued to stay out of the competition. The club's attitude was not appreciated, and there were suggestions that more pressure should be put on them to get them to re-join the other clubs who were still taking part.

The Lancashire Cup was structured exactly as it had been in the 1940-41 season, with teams again being paired with some regard for their geographical proximity. All games were played towards the end of the season, although this time there was no attempt to try and play all games in a particular round on the same day.

By the time the First Round ties were played, Stockport County had already ceased activities for the season. This meant that Manchester City were given a bye to the Second Round.

The two Finalists were Blackburn Rovers and Blackpool. Blackburn had defeated Burnley in the First Round, and had then produced two good away victories at both Manchester United and Liverpool to earn their place in the Final. Blackpool had lost their away ties, but had been particularly strong in their home ties, defeating Bolton Wanderers 7-1 in the First Round, and Rochdale 5-1 in the Second Round. They had been granted a walk over at the Semi-Final stage, with Everton scratching from the competition.

The Final was played at Bloomfield Road, with home side Blackpool demonstrating their superiority over Blackburn with a crushing 7-1 victory. Centre forward Jock Dodds scored

five of the goals, and this still remains the best individual goalscoring performance by a player in a Lancashire Cup Final.

Taking advantage of the availability of former professional footballers stationed in the Fylde area, Blackpool had assembled a strong side, and in the Final had six guest players turning out for them. Their forward line was particularly awesome, comprising Stanley Matthews, Stan Mortenson, Jock Dodds, Ronnie Dix, and Eddie Burbanks. At this time Stanley Matthews was a Stoke City player, Ronnie Dix was a Tottenham Hotspur player, and Eddie Burbanks was a Sunderland player.

1942-43

This season Preston North End closed down as an active football club, so there was no question of them returning to play in the Lancashire Cup. Stockport County were again among the entrants, and this time round they actually took up their place in the competition. There were also two teams new to the competition - Blackpool Services and Crewe Alexandra. Blackpool Services were a short-lived club comprising military personnel who were stationed in the Blackpool area. They had been Lancashire Junior Cup winners in 1941-42, and would go on to win this competition for three successive seasons. Cheshire club Crewe Alexandra were yet another of the growing number of clubs from outside the county who had been accepted into the Lancashire Cup.

There was a minor change for the 1942-43 competition with the arrangement that all ties up to and including the Final be played over two legs. The Lancashire Cup was again played late in the season to give clubs some last chance of success. However before playing their First Round ties, both Blackpool and Manchester City were allowed to scratch from the Lancashire Cup because they were already heavily committed to play in other cup competitions.

The two teams new to the competition were both successful in winning their First Round ties. Blackpool Services were winners over Burnley by a 5-3 aggregate score, and in a game contested between two Cheshire clubs, Crewe Alexandra were 11-5 aggregate winners over Stockport County. Crewe were victorious in both legs, but had been especially dominant in their home leg, when they had been 8-3 winners.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed that the Second Round tie between Liverpool and Southport could be played as a single game.

In the Semi-Finals Liverpool were 10-3 aggregate winners over Bolton Wanderers. The other game was much closer, with Manchester United and Oldham Athletic both winning their home legs, but with United edging it by a 4-3 aggregate score.

The first two legged Lancashire Cup Final was between Liverpool and Manchester United. The first leg was played at Anfield, and it was away side Manchester United who rose to the occasion with a 3-1 victory. The second leg resulted in a 3-3 draw, with Liverpool winger Jack Balmer scoring a hat trick. Unfortunately his efforts were all in vain, with Manchester United having secured a 6-4 aggregate victory.

The Lancashire FA purchased 66 savings certificates at a cost of £49-10s-0d. It was a sign of the times that from this season and for a number of years there were saving certificates presented to the players involved in the Lancashire Cup Final, rather than them receiving medals or miniature cups.

This season's Lancashire Cup was reported to have been the most successful financially for a great many years. The secretary Fred Hargreaves described it as the best in his 32 years experience. As much as £1602-13s-11d was paid back to clubs playing in the Lancashire Cup, with each receiving a minimum payment of £20, but with a greater amount going to the four Semi-Finalists.

1943-44

The clubs taking part in the Lancashire Cup were unchanged from the previous season. However once again Blackpool and Manchester City were allowed to scratch before playing their First Round games as they had commitments to play in other cup competitions.

In the First Round over four successive Saturdays the two Liverpool clubs produced high scoring aggregate victories. First Everton defeated Chester 5-2 at home, only to go to Chester the following week and record a 9-2 victory, which made the aggregate score 14-4. A week later Liverpool defeated Southport 6-2 at home, then went to Southport and produced a 7-4 victory to make their aggregate score 13-6.

In the Second Round the geographic draw meant that Everton and Liverpool were brought together. Everton won the first leg by a 3-0 score, only for Liverpool to return the favour in the second leg. A replay was necessary for the first time since the introduction of two legged ties. The deciding match was played at Liverpool, with the home side recording a 4-2 victory to progress through to the Semi-Final. All three games had attracted large crowds, with the game played at Everton attracting 40,000 spectators.

Because an extra game had been necessary to find a winner in Round 2 between the two Liverpool clubs, it was decided that the Liverpool versus Blackburn Rovers Semi-Final should be played as a one leg tie. In a close game Liverpool were 1-0 winners. The other Semi-Final was played over the planned two legs, with Bolton Wanderers defeating Stockport County both home and away.

On the first Saturday in May the Lancashire Cup Final first leg was played at Anfield, with Liverpool recording a 3-1 victory. Exactly a week later the second leg was played at Burnden Park, with Liverpool again taking the honours this time with a 3-2 win to make the aggregate score 6-3.

Playing for Liverpool in the first leg was Matt Busby, who had also been in the Manchester City side which were losing Finalists in the 1931-32 season. Later to become Sir Matt in recognition of his great success as manager of Manchester United, it seems quite ironic that his honours as a player should be with two of the teams who would become his later club's fiercest rivals.

For another Liverpool player it was third time lucky. Right back Jack Westby was playing in a winning side after having been on the losing side in the previous two Finals, playing for Blackburn Rovers in 1941-42 and for Liverpool in 1942-43.

Financially this Lancashire Cup competition was even better than the previous season. It was reported that during the season 234,429 spectators had paid for admission to matches, with gate receipts totalling £17,008-13s-10d. As much as £6,458-5s-4d of this went in tax, but after all deductions there was still £8,679-9s-1d left to be distributed to the clubs in the competition. Each club received a payment of £41, with the remaining money going to the four Semi-Finalists.

1944-45

This season there was one change in the clubs taking part. Missing were Blackpool Services, who had played in both the previous two seasons. Replacing them were Accrington Stanley, who were back in the competition for the first time since the 1939-40 season.

For the fourth year running the Lancashire Cup was played towards the end of the season. However there was again a withdrawal before the First Round games were played, with Manchester United being allowed to scratch from the competition.

Before the First Round could be completed there was a second withdrawal. Liverpool had begun their defence of the Lancashire Cup with a 5-0 away win at Southport. A place in the Second Round was virtually guaranteed, but Liverpool were forced to scratch due to other commitments. Southport got an unexpected reprieve and went through to the Second Round and a tie with Everton. Strangely history was to repeat itself, with Southport again losing 5-0 at home to a Liverpool club. On this occasion the second leg did get played, with Southport putting up a better performance to get a creditable 1-1 draw at Goodison Park.

In their First Round match Everton had been surprisingly tested by Chester. Having won the first leg 4-1, it looked to be a formality that Everton would progress into the next round. However in the second leg Chester put up a great fight, and were leading 6-3 at the end of normal time. The game went into extra time, and it was Everton who got the important last goal to win through 8-7 on aggregate.

The First Round tie between Manchester City and Stockport County was to produce a surprise result. In the first leg Stockport had been 4-1 winners, but in the second leg they were even more impressive and were 5-1 winners on Manchester City's own ground in front of an 18,000 crowd.

On their return to the Lancashire Cup, Accrington had produced some great performances. In the First Round they had beaten Blackpool home and away, in the Second Round they had hammered Burnley 4-0 at home, and in the Semi-Final they had been 2-0 winners at Everton. Their opponents in the Final were near neighbours Blackburn Rovers. Blackburn had reached the Final with an easier series of games, having defeated Rochdale, Bury, and Crewe Alexandra.

In the two games, Blackburn were easily the better side, defeating Accrington 2-0 at home and 4-3 away. It was Blackburn's 12th Lancashire Cup success, but the first time that they had won it since the 1910-11 season. After this wartime Lancashire Cup victory, it would be another long wait before Blackburn would again take possession of the trophy.

It was third time lucky for Blackburn goalkeeper Herman Conway. He had been a losing Finalist in 1940-41 when playing as a guest for Burnley, then had been a losing Finalist in 1941-42 when playing for his new club Blackburn Rovers.

In the Lancashire FA's annual report it was revealed that 141,206 spectators had paid a total of £9,746-10s-2d admission for games played in the 1944-45 competition. It may have been down on the previous two seasons, but it was quite acceptable to keep the Lancashire FA running on a sound footing financially.

1945-46

The war in Europe may have been over, but the country was not yet ready for football to get back to normal. During the wartime seasons many Football League clubs had closed down temporarily, but by 1945-46 almost all clubs were back playing regular football.

For this season there was another slight re-shuffling of clubs taking part in the Lancashire Cup. Out were Stockport County, who had been involved in the previous four wartime competitions, while back among the participants were Barrow and Wrexham. Barrow were playing in the competition for the first time since the 1939-40 season, while Wrexham had last played in 1940-41 but were making only their second appearance as a competing club in the Lancashire Cup.

The Lancashire Cup continued to be played to the same format as it had been in wartime seasons. However this season it was not necessary that games had to be dual purpose in that they no longer had to count as both Lancashire Cup ties and Wartime League games. The success of the competition in the war years resulted in the Lancashire FA again ruling that clubs would be expected to field their full strength teams in their Lancashire Cup ties.

The competition opened at the end of August, and with 17 clubs, there had to be a Preliminary Round of one tie. Chester defeated Wrexham, which meant that the Welsh club had gone out at the first hurdle on both occasions that they had played in the Lancashire Cup.

In the First Round holders Blackburn Rovers were unceremoniously dumped out of the competition by Bury by a 9-1 aggregate score. The First Round also saw an Everton versus Liverpool tie that went to three games, before Liverpool triumphed by a 4-0 scoreline. The tie attracted a lot of interest, with all three games having attendances around the 20,000 mark. As had happened in 1943-44, Liverpool were subsequently allowed to play their next opponents Bolton Wanderers in a one leg match to decide which team would go through to the Semi-Finals.

The Semi-Finals and Final were also played as single leg ties. In the first Semi-Final Burnley pulled off a great result in winning 3-2 away to Liverpool after extra time had been played. The second Semi-Final was an all Manchester derby, which was won by Manchester United 3-0 in front of a 32,231 crowd. The game was played at Manchester City's Maine Road ground, but at this time it was also Manchester United's temporary residence while Old Trafford was out of action.

The Final was also played at Maine Road, with Manchester United defeating Burnley 1-0 in a game which Burnley were said to have lost because they failed to take their chances. The attendance was 36,500, the highest ever for a Lancashire Cup Final, while gate receipts were £3,025, which was also a record and one that would last for many years. The Lancashire FA must have been very pleased with proceeds that they were receiving from the Lancashire Cup at this time.

Manchester United had easily been the best performing club during the war-time seasons. Despite them twice having scratched from the competition, they had been Lancashire Cup winners in three out of the seven seasons affected by wartime restrictions. Two players, Stan Pearson and Jack Rowley, had now played for Manchester United in four Lancashire Cup winning sides. They had both played in the 1937-38 Final victory over Southport, and had both gone on to play in all three wartime Finals.

1946-47

This was the season that football got back to some degree of normality, with the lifting of the restrictions that had been imposed while the country was at war. The Football League was back with virtually the same fixture list that had been planned for the aborted 1939-40 season, while the Lancashire Cup was back up to strength with all 15 Lancashire-based Football League clubs again participating.

Preston North End were making a return to the Lancashire Cup after a seven year gap. Despite playing some football in five of the wartime seasons, they had chosen to stay away from the competition and really this had not been appreciated by the Lancashire FA. However no longer in the Lancashire Cup were 'outsiders' Crewe Alexandra and Wrexham. This meant that Chester were now the only non-Lancashire based club taking part in the competition. They had effectively taken the place of New Brighton, who had been the one non-Lancashire based club playing in 1938-39, the previous peace-time season.

Following the format that had been established during the wartime seasons, the Lancashire Cup continued to operate with all ties being decided over two legs.

The First Round included a marathon tie between Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City which went to two replays. In the end it took almost 7 hours before a winner could be found, with extra time being played in two of the four matches played. Bolton were eventually 2-1 winners at City's Maine Road in a second replay.

Preston may have been welcomed back into the fold, but they were almost immediately in trouble with the Lancashire FA. In their first game they were defeated 1-0 at home by Manchester United, and following this were subsequently fined £25 for fielding a weak team.

1946-47 was to be a football season that was badly affected by the weather, with the very last Football League games being played as late as June 14th. Although the first two rounds of the Lancashire Cup had been completed before the end of 1946, the bad weather meant that there was then a gap of almost five months before the competition could be resumed at the Semi-Final stage. Even then, with Liverpool and Burnley having built up a fixture backlog it was agreed that they could play their Semi-Final as one leg rather than the two legs that had been anticipated.

The Final was between Liverpool and Bury, and it was played at Anfield on June 7th. Just one week earlier Liverpool had been crowned Champions of the Football League, having finished just one point ahead of fellow Lancastrians Manchester United in the Division One table. They fielded a strong side in the Final, with most of their Championship winning team turning out. On the day lowly Second Division side Bury were able to put up a great fight, and actually scored the first goal before eventually losing just 2-1 to what was the best team in the country.

It was the seventh time that Liverpool had been Lancashire Cup winners. Although their previous victory had been just three years earlier, centre half Laurie Hughes was the only survivor from that 1943-44 winning Liverpool team which had included a number of guest players.

Following on from the profitable war-time seasons, financially the Lancashire Cup was again heralded a success. It was reported that 180,703 spectators had paid £13,769-1s-11d for admission to the Lancashire Cup matches played during the 1946-47 season.

1947-48

For the second peace-time season after the Second World War, the Lancashire Cup was back to a more familiar format in that each tie was played on a straight knock-out basis, rather than it being decided over two legs.

This season there were again instances when it was claimed that clubs had deliberately fielded weak teams in their Lancashire Cup ties. Four clubs, Blackburn Rovers, Blackpool, Burnley and Liverpool were all accused of this action. At this time it was said that there was a gentleman's agreement that clubs should field their best available sides, although it was suggested that there could be some leeway. What the Lancashire FA did not accept was clubs fielding their reserve sides, but then charging first team prices for entry to the games.

Southport had a good season winning through to the Lancashire Cup Final, but they were a little fortunate with the draw. They had three home games and all were against fellow Third Division North sides. After defeating Barrow and Rochdale, they were paired with Oldham Athletic at the Semi-Final stage. This game attracted a lot of interest, and with both teams having a free day, it was played on a Saturday afternoon when other teams were involved in FA Cup ties. It was reported that over a dozen coach loads of Oldham supporters journeyed to Southport for the game, and in front of a 6,271 crowd it was the home side who were 1-0 winners to reach the Final.

It was over three months before Southport's opponents in the Final were known. With the season almost over, Bolton Wanderers were 1-0 winners over Blackburn Rovers in a game that was decided in extra time.

The Final was played at Southport's Haig Avenue ground, and it was a big game for the seaside club with a crowd of 10,734 being present. On the day Bolton Wanderers fielded a full strength team and were much too strong for the home side, running out 5-1 winners. It was reported that the Southport defence had managed to keep centre forward Nat Lofthouse quiet, but this was to no avail as it was winger Willie Moir who rose to the occasion by scoring a first half hat trick.

With this victory, Bolton Wanderers became the second club to have won the Lancashire Cup on ten occasions. Playing at left half was Malcolm Barrass, who was the son of ex-Blackpool and Manchester City player Matt Barrass. Matt had been a Lancashire Cup winner in 1927-28 and 1929-30, which made this possibly the only occurrence of a son matching his father's achievement of having played in a Lancashire Cup winning side.

The Southport side included two players who were both playing for their third different club in a Lancashire Cup Final. George Mutch was playing in his third Lancashire Cup Final, having previously played for Preston North End in the drawn 1938-39 game and for Bury in 1946-47. Jack Westby was playing in his fourth Lancashire Cup Final, having previously played for Blackburn Rovers in the 1941-42 Final, and for Liverpool in the 1942-43 and 1943-44 Finals.

1948-49

For the second season running a Third Division Northern Section team was to reach the Lancashire Cup Final. However unlike Southport the previous season, Rochdale were to get there by having to defeat three bigger clubs on their way to the Final, and on each occasion it was on their opponents ground. In the First Round they had been 2-1 winners at Bury, then in the Second Round they were 1-0 winners at Everton in a replay after the teams had already drawn at Rochdale. In their Semi-Final they were 2-0 winners at Manchester City.

Rochdale's opponents in the Final were Blackpool. They had eliminated two of the bigger clubs, defeating Liverpool in the First Round, and Manchester United in their Semi-Final match.

The Final was played at Oldham's Boundary Park ground. It was the first time since the 1933-34 season that a Lancashire Cup Final had been played on a neutral ground. Unlike Liverpool and Bolton Wanderers in the previous two seasons, First Division Blackpool chose to field a mainly reserve side against their lower league opponents. The resultant outcome was a very closely fought match, with Rochdale pulling off a surprise 1-0 win, scoring with a last minute headed goal from Jack Connor.

It was the first time that Rochdale had been Lancashire Cup winners. Before this, their only previous appearance in a Final had been in 1914-15, when they had still been a Lancashire Combination club. They were the 15th different club to have taken possession of the trophy.

Both teams had one player with the previous experience of having already played in a Lancashire Cup Final. In the undecided 1938-39 Final Rochdale's Harry Hubbick had played for Bolton Wanderers, whereas Blackpool's Jimmy McIntosh had played for Preston North End. Hubbick had also played in Bolton's losing Final of 1943-44, while McIntosh was in his second spell with Blackpool having previously picked up Winners medals in 1935-36 and 1936-37.

1949-50

In the First Round there was a surprise result, with Chester emerging 3-0 winners over Blackburn Rovers. During the war years Chester had been able to produce some good results, but this was the first time that they had actually managed to knock a bigger club out of the competition. In the next round they held Burnley to a 4-4 draw at Turf Moor, but their luck ran out in the replay when they were defeated 4-3 on their own ground.

Although Chester were out of the competition, a number of other Third Division North sides prospered. The four Semi-Finalists included two Division Three teams, and with them both playing at home it looked quite likely that this division would again provide at least one of the Finalists. Lancashire Cup holders Rochdale had reached the Semi-Final stage with two impressive victories. In a First Round replay they had been 1-0 winners at Blackpool after the teams had drawn at Spotland, and in the Second Round they had been 1-0 winners at Bolton Wanderers. The 1947-48 losing Finalists Southport had also produced two good results, having been 3-1 winners at Everton, and then 1-0 winners at home to Manchester United. However in the event neither of the two clubs were successful, with Burnley winning at Rochdale and with Liverpool winning at Southport.

The Final was played at Turf Moor, and it was home side Burnley who were comfortable 3-0 winners in front of a good sized crowd of 16,898. On the day Burnley had been able to field their full strength team, while Liverpool had been forced to put out a depleted side. After being presented with the Lancashire Cup, the Burnley captain George Bray told the supporters that 'they would build on this success and that they would go on to win the FA Cup next season'.

It was only the third time that Burnley had been Lancashire Cup winners, and it was their first success since the 1914-15 season. Reg Attwell was playing in his second Lancashire Cup winning side, having previously been a guest player for Blackburn Rovers when they had defeated Accrington Stanley in the first leg of the 1944-45 Final.

1950-51

Although they were struggling near the bottom of Division Two, this season Bury were the club which produced the most impressive Lancashire Cup results. They opened with a fine 4-1 victory away to Liverpool, and then playing at home they defeated Blackpool by the exact same score. This meant that they had defeated the losing Finalists from each of the previous two seasons, and in their Semi-Final they were paired with current Lancashire Cup holders Burnley.

Despite their captain's aspirations of the previous season, the Turf Moor men had fared badly in the FA Cup with them having been defeated 2-0 by Aston Villa in the Third Round. Following this, any hopes of them retaining the Lancashire Cup were now dashed as they were defeated 2-0 at Gigg Lane by a Bury side able to relax after having just avoided relegation.

The other Semi-Final saw a closely contested tie featuring the two Manchester clubs. The first game resulted in a 0-0 draw, but in the replay at Old Trafford Manchester United were victorious by a 2-1 scoreline.

The Lancashire Cup Final was also played at Old Trafford. Second Division Bury fielded their first team against First Division Manchester United's reserves, but after their earlier successes it was to be a disappointing day for the Shakers. Manchester United scored a goal in each half, with Bury only able to net a consolation goal just two minutes from time.

It was the tenth time that Manchester United had been Lancashire Cup winners, and it was the first time since the Second World War that a club's reserve side had been victorious. In Jackie Blanchflower, Roger Byrne, and Dennis Viollet, the Manchester United team included three players who would all later go on to be important members of Matt Busby's successful 1950s Manchester United side, yet who at this time had still to make their first team debuts.

1951-52

This season Barrow became the latest Third Division North side to have some success in the Lancashire Cup. However like Southport in 1947-48, they were helped by being able to play all their games at home. In the First Round, after a drawn game they defeated Manchester City 2-0 in the replay, then they were 3-1 winners over Southport, and in their Semi-Final they were 3-0 winners over Preston North End.

It was the first time that Barrow had reached a Lancashire Cup Final. A day after their Semi-Final victory, they learned that their opponents in the Final would be Burnley. The First Division side had progressed to the Final with a solid but unremarkable run of three victories each by a single goal margin.

In the Final Barrow were again given home advantage, but it was Burnley who continued their run of victories by a single goal margin. The final score was 1-0, with the only goal of the match being scored in the 82nd minute by Albert Cheesebrough, who it was noted was the youngest player on the field. Although the presentation of savings certificates had continued to take place for a number of post-war seasons, by now the players were again being presented with miniature cups to commemorate the occasion.

It was Burnley's second Lancashire Cup success in three years. Unlike Manchester United the previous season, Burnley had chosen to field their first team in the Final, with the eleven players taking part being those that had played in the last league game of the season exactly two weeks earlier. Harold Mather was playing in his fifth Lancashire Cup Final, and he along with Jock Aird, Reg Attwell, Alf Clarke, Tommy Cummings, and Jimmy Strong were survivors from Burnley's previous Lancashire Cup winning side just two years earlier.

1952-53

The 1952-53 season saw yet another Third Division North team reach the Lancashire Cup Final, with Chester matching Barrow's feat of the previous season. In practice Chester had started slowly, first being held to a draw on their own ground by the previous seasons losing Finalists. They were 1-0 winners in the replay at Barrow, and were then 3-1 winners over Accrington Stanley. It was only their second ever Semi-Final appearance, and as in 1940-41 they were drawn to play Manchester United. Having lost on that previous occasion in a ten goal thriller, this time they were able to get the upper hand with a 3-2 victory over the Reds.

It was the first time that a non-Lancashire based club had ever reached the Lancashire Cup Final. Their opponents were Manchester City, who had defeated Liverpool, Southport, and Preston North End on their way to the Final.

The Final was played at Chester's Sealand Road ground, which meant it was the first time that a Lancashire Cup Final had been played outside the county boundary. On the day there was no real threat of the trophy itself leaving Lancashire, with Manchester City recording a resounding 5-1 victory. They were 3-0 up after 30 minutes, and although Chester pulled a goal back from a penalty after the interval, there were two late Manchester City goals to secure a convincing win.

It was Manchester City's fifth Lancashire Cup Final success, but their first since the 1929-30 season. In the Final they had fielded their reserve team, but there were quite a few players with first team experience from earlier in the 1952-53 season. At right half was Don Revie, who later in the 1950s was to devise the 'Revie plan' as a style of play, and who in the 1960s and 1970s was to be a successful manager with Leeds United.

1953-54

The Lancashire Cup may have declined a little in popularity, but the First Round match between Preston North End and Bolton Wanderers attracted an impressive crowd of 12,000. It was the first game played after the installation of a floodlighting system at Deepdale, and the Preston public were keen to experience this new phenomenon. As the 1950s progressed more and more games were being played in the evenings under floodlights, and by the 1960s the practice of playing games on a weekday afternoon had all but vanished.

In the First Round Blackpool defeated Burnley by a 6-0 scoreline. This was the first time since the 1945-46 season that a team had scored as many as six goals. In the post-war seasons the competition had become much more evenly contested with the reserve sides from First and Second Division teams being more or less on a par with full strength Third Division sides. This meant that for a number of seasons the competition was such that realistically almost any of the 16 entrants could be considered to have a good chance of being Lancashire Cup winners.

Blackpool went on to defeat Accrington Stanley in a replay in the Second Round, and in the Semi-Final it also took them a replay to defeat Bury. Their opponents in the Final were Liverpool, who had recorded wins over Everton, Chester, and Manchester City.

The Final was played at Bloomfield Road, and on the day there was nothing to separate the two teams. Blackpool scored first through Alan Withers, only for Tony Rowley to equalise for Liverpool to make the score 1-1, and this was how it finished. It was the first time since 1923-24 that a replay would be necessary, when Liverpool had again been one of the teams involved.

The Final replay took place just two days later, this time perhaps more appropriately on a Saturday afternoon, and again it was at Bloomfield Road. On this occasion Blackpool were easily the better team and they produced a convincing win with a great show of teamwork. They were 2-0 up at half time with goals from Dave Durie and Alex Harris, and in the second half Harris got a second goal to complete the scoring.

It was Blackpool's fourth Lancashire Cup success. Just a year earlier they had been FA Cup winners in the game now famous as the 'Matthews Cup Final'. However the side which defeated Liverpool in the 1953-54 Lancashire Cup Final was basically a reserve side, with inside forward Jackie Mudie being the only player who had appeared in Blackpool's winning side at Wembley 12 months earlier.

1954-55

This was to be a season in which the Lancashire Cup was dominated by clubs from the Third Division North. Three of the four clubs in the Semi-Finals were from that division, with two of them reaching the Final.

Barrow were to produce a series of great results to reach the Final. In the First Round they got a 2-2 draw at Manchester City, then defeated them 4-2 at home in the replay. In the Second Round they got a 2-2 draw at Liverpool, only to trounce them 5-1 at home in the replay. In their Semi-Final they recorded another big victory defeating Preston North End 4-0.

The other Finalists were Oldham Athletic. On the face of it they had experienced a much easier route to the Final, having only had to meet other Third Division clubs. However all their games had been played away from home. In their three games they were 2-1 winners at Southport, 3-1 winners at Accrington Stanley, and 1-0 winners at Rochdale.

Before succumbing to Barrow, Preston North End had been involved in a strange tie with Bolton Wanderers. The Second Round match between the two teams was a draw in normal time. Extra time was played, at the end of which the scores were still level at 2-2. At this point the referee was not sure what to do. The players initially stayed on the pitch and it was suggested that another period of extra time be played. Eventually it was decided that a replay would be necessary. For this second game Bolton requested that they be allowed to field their 'A' team, but they were refused permission by the Lancashire FA. In the event they were said to have fielded a team of nine 'B' team players plus two reserves, and were beaten 1-0 by Preston. As a result of all this there was a

Lancashire FA inquiry, with Bolton Wanderers officials being asked to attend a commission.

The Final was played at Barrow's Holker Street ground, and it was the home side who were victorious by a 2-0 scoreline, with the goals being scored by Jim Collins and Billy Gordon.

It was the first time that Barrow had been Lancashire Cup winners. However five of their players had been in the Barrow team which had been losing Finalists in the 1951-52 season.

1955-56

In his annual report the Lancashire FA secretary Jack Robinson made the comment that the Lancashire Cup was losing money because it was not being treated with respect by the participating clubs. For several years he had been of the opinion that clubs should always field stronger teams in order that bigger crowds would result.

The First Round draw paired the previous seasons Finalists together. Lancashire Cup holders Barrow were again successful, defeating Oldham 2-1 at home. In the Second Round Barrow were 3-2 winners over Manchester City, but hopes of another Final appearance were dashed with a 5-1 defeat at Liverpool in the Semi-Final.

For their First Round match Manchester United and Everton both fielded virtually their full strength teams. Despite this, the game failed to attract the interest of the public, with a crowd of only 1,545 turning up to watch the game.

For several seasons it had been the intention that all First Round games be completed in October, or at the very latest before the end of the calendar year. This season the Blackpool versus Preston North End match did not get played until March 14th, but really this did not hold up the competition schedule.

Liverpool's opponents in the Final were Blackburn Rovers. The Final was played at Anfield, and it turned out to be one of the most entertaining Finals for years. The game started dramatically, with Liverpool opening the scoring through Dick White after just 30 seconds, probably the quickest ever goal in a Lancashire Cup Final. Blackburn equalised through Eddie Crossan on 10 minutes, and then went into a 2-1 lead. The game continued to swing backward and forward with goals continuing to be scored. However in the final minutes Liverpool looked to have the game won at 4-3, but a late header from Crossan completed the scoring with no extra time being played.

A replay was needed, but the decision was made that it be held over to the following season. The game was eventually played on October 24th 1956, and it was again at Anfield. Not surprisingly, more than five months after the first match both Blackburn and Liverpool were fielding vastly changed teams. This time Liverpool were comfortable winners, winning 2-0 with goals from Alan A'Court and Billy Liddell.

Apart from the undecided Finals of 1919-20 and 1938-39, it was the first time a Lancashire Cup competition had taken more than 12 months to find a winner. It was Liverpool's eighth Lancashire Cup success.

1956-57

This was the season that the unthinkable happened, with the Lancashire Cup being won by a team from outside the county boundaries.

As in the previous season there was some delay in the completion of the First Round. Two games were not played until February, while the tie between Bury and Bolton Wanderers did not take place until the middle of March.

One game that did get played early was that between Blackburn Rovers and Oldham Athletic, and perhaps surprisingly it was away team Oldham who were 1-0 winners. The game had been played on an earlier date than the 1955-56 Lancashire Cup Final replay which had been carried over from the previous season. Strangely, this defeat to Oldham meant that Blackburn Rovers were already out of the 1956-57 competition before they had even completed playing in the 1955-56 competition.

Two weeks after becoming 1955-56 Lancashire Cup winners, Liverpool began their defence of the trophy. In the First Round they were 3-0 winners over Barrow, and in the Second Round they were 8-2 winners over Oldham Athletic. It was the first time since the wartime seasons that a team had scored 8 goals in winning a Lancashire Cup game.

At the Semi-Final stage Liverpool were paired with Chester, and surprisingly they were beaten 2-1 on the Northern Section club's ground. In the earlier rounds, Chester had not previously met any of the bigger clubs, but they had already produced two good performances over fellow Third Division North sides. They had been 3-0 winners away to Rochdale, and 1-0 winners away to Accrington Stanley.

Their opponents in the Final were Burnley, who had already defeated Blackpool, Bury, and Southport in the competition. With Chester's Semi-Final match having been played later in the season than anticipated, and with Burnley committed to a continental tour, it was agreed for the second year running that the competition could be completed early in the following season.

The Final was played at Chester's Sealand Road ground in October 1957, and on the day it was Chester who played the better football to produce a shock result. The only goal of the game came from inside forward Mickey Fields, while Chester goalkeeper Keith Griffiths was said to have been in brilliant form. Unfortunately the attendance was only 2,661, which was the lowest for a Lancashire Cup Final since the 1934-35 season.

History had been made in that this was the first time that a non-Lancashire based club had ever won the Lancashire Cup. In respect of their achievement Chester made a fine gesture by presenting the Lancashire FA with a cabinet which could be used to display and protect the Lancashire Cup trophy. At this time it was again suggested that the Lancashire Cup could well be the finest footballing trophy in the country.

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Phil Whitlock was the only survivor from the Chester side which had been Lancashire Cup Finalists in the 1952-53 season. Interestingly though in Bill Souter and Aled Williams, the Chester side did include two players who had both been with Burnley in the 1956-57 season and had only signed for Chester in the 1957 close season. However as neither player had been involved in Burnley's three ties in the earlier rounds of the competition, they were eligible to turn out for their new club.

Chester were to spend the season languishing near the bottom of the Third Division North, but later in 1957-58 they were to excel in a second cup competition in which they were guests. This was one of the seasons that Chester were accepted to play in the Welsh Cup and they went on to reach the Final which was played in May 1958, only to unluckily lose out to Wrexham in a replay.

1957-58

The Lancashire Cup continued to be played to less strict timescales. It was as late as February when Chester played their first game in defence of the Lancashire Cup, and on this occasion they were well beaten 3-0 by fellow Division Three North side Accrington Stanley.

This season the two Finalists were Bury and Preston North End. Bury had been fortunate with home draws, but had produced two good results in defeating Everton 2-0 and Manchester United 1-0, before they had hammered Barrow 4-1 in their Semi-Final. In the first two rounds Preston North End defeated Oldham Athletic and Accrington Stanley. In their Semi-Final they got a 1-1 draw at Liverpool, and in the replay also played at Liverpool they were 2-1 winners.

It was Bury's third appearance in a Lancashire Cup Final since the Second World War, while Preston were playing in their first Final since 1938-39 when they had been joint winners with Bolton Wanderers.

The Final was played at Gigg Lane, with home side Bury running out 2-1 winners. It was a well deserved win, with Bury being the more workmanlike of the two teams. Jimmy Reid opened the scoring for Bury on 20 minutes, with Preston equalising just after half time through an own goal. Reid got his second goal on 63 minutes to complete the scoring. On the day both teams had fielded quite inexperienced reserve sides, and the game attracted a crowd of just 2,376.

It was the sixth time that Bury had been Lancashire Cup winners, but it was their first success since the 1925-26 season. Although Bury had fielded their reserve side, they had two players in Don May and Tommy Daniel, who had played in the 1950-51 Lancashire Cup Final when Bury's first team had been defeated by Manchester United.

Bury 1957-58

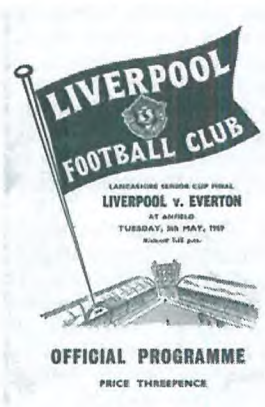
1958-59

This was the season that the Football League was re-structured with the Third Division North and South being replaced by non-regional Third and Fourth Divisions. This re-organisation came at a time when football in Lancashire was particularly strong, with 8 clubs playing in the First Division, 1 club playing in the Second Division, 3 clubs playing in the Third Division, and 3 clubs playing in the Fourth Division.

It had now become quite commonplace that Lancashire Cup ties would be played under floodlights. In the First Round the Oldham Athletic versus Blackpool tie was switched to Blackpool so that it could be played under the new Bloomfield Road lights. The game attracted a crowd of 2,072, with Blackpool running out 2-0 winners.

This season the Lancashire Cup was dominated by the two Liverpool clubs. Second Division Liverpool were to win through to the Final with three home victories, while First Division Everton had the more difficult task of pulling off three away victories. In their games Liverpool were 4-1 winners over Blackburn Rovers, 3-0 winners over Bolton Wanderers, and then 3-2 winners over Manchester United in front of an impressive 10,644 crowd. Everton were 4-1 winners at Chester, 2-0 winners at Burnley, and 2-1 winners at Blackpool.

In keeping with what had happened in the earlier rounds, the Final was played at Anfield with Everton again being the team who had to travel. The only goal of the match came from Liverpool's Billy Liddell, and when he scored it was said to have been against the run of play. However later Liverpool took control and it was suggested that they could have scored at least five goals. The game attracted a bumper crowd of 22,193, with gate receipts of £2,530-15s-0d being over ten times more than they had been the previous season.



Naturally enough the Lancashire FA was extremely pleased with this, and they subsequently paid a special tribute to Liverpool and Everton particularly as they had both fielded strong sides in the Final. This was the ninth time that Liverpool had been Lancashire Cup winners, and seven of their players had already had the experience of playing in a Lancashire Cup Final. It was the second time that Alan A'Court, Billy Liddell, Ronnie Moran, and Barry Wilkinson, had played in a Liverpool side which had been Lancashire Cup winners.

1959-60

Holders Liverpool opened their defence of the Lancashire Cup with an 8-0 victory over Oldham Athletic in front of a 5,000 crowd. As in the previous season when they had been drawn to play Blackpool, Oldham had given up home advantage so that the game could be played under floodlights. The last time that a team had scored eight goals was in the 1956-57 season when Liverpool had last played Oldham Athletic in the Lancashire Cup, and on that occasion they had beaten them 8-2.

This season the two Finalists were Burnley and Manchester United. Burnley had produced a series of impressive results on their route to the Final. In the First Round they had been 5-1 winners over Manchester City, in the Second Round they had won 3-1 at Chester, then in their Semi-Final they had won 3-0 at Preston North End.

Equally impressive were Manchester United's results. In the First Round they had been 4-2 winners at Accrington Stanley, and in the Second Round they were 6-0 home winners over Bury. At the Semi-Final stage they were paired with Lancashire Cup holders Liverpool, and following a 0-0 draw at Anfield they were 2-0 winners in the replay.

The Final was played at Turf Moor, and Burnley turned in a good performance to record a 4-2 victory. Walter Joyce opened the scoring after 15 minutes, and with two goals from Andy Lochhead Burnley had a 3-1 lead at half time. Manchester United played better in the second half, but with each team scoring a goal in the last ten minutes, the game finished 4-2. In his annual report the Lancashire FA secretary Jack Robinson gave his opinion that the Final had been an excellent game.

This was only Burnley's fifth Lancashire Cup win, but it would be the start of a period of great success for them in the competition. They had already twice been winners in the 1950s, while their most recent appearance in a Final had been in 1956-57 when they had been beaten by Chester.

Both Burnley and Manchester United were to be league champions in the 1959-60 season. Burnley were Football League Division One Champions, although they had strength in depth with none of their Lancashire Cup winning side having been first team regulars. More appropriately Manchester United got some consolation for their Lancashire Cup defeat, with their reserves being the 1959-60 Central League Champions.

1960-61

The 1960-61 Lancashire Cup competition was unusual in that there were no drawn games, with all 15 ties being decided without there being any need for a replay.

It was also quite remarkable that no two games in any of the first two rounds were actually played on the same day. As had become the custom the First Round and Second Round ties were now being played over a number of weeks on the earliest date that was convenient to both clubs. The First Round opened with the biggest score of the competition, with Preston North End defeating Barrow by 5 goals to nil. Exactly eight weeks later the First Round ties were completed with Everton winning 3-1 at Oldham Athletic. However the First Round over, it would then be another two months before the Second Round was commenced.

Lancashire Cup holders Burnley were again in all conquering form, although this time they were helped by a run of home games in their ties. This season they were 1-0 winners over Southport, 3-0 winners over Rochdale, and 2-0 winners over Bury. Their opponents in the Final were close rivals Blackburn Rovers. After defeating Chester 4-1 in the First Round, Blackburn had produced two great results in defeating Liverpool 2-1 and Manchester United 2-0.

The Final was played at Turf Moor in extremely heavy rain. It proved to be a bad game mainly due to the conditions, and on the day there was a lot of needle between the two sides. Home side Burnley were 1-0 winners, with the only goal of the game being scored by Ian Lawson after 23 minutes.

It was the second season running that Burnley had been Lancashire Cup winners, and this time they had been particularly impressive in that they had gone through the competition without conceding a single goal.

1961-62

This season there was a little more discipline in the scheduling of First Round matches, with all ties actually being decided in October rather than some being allowed to remain unplayed.

Before their First Round tie with Bolton Wanderers, the Manchester City players were in dispute over the payment of bonuses. There was talk of a strike, but this failed to materialise and it was Bolton who were victorious winning the game by a 4-3 scoreline.

In the First Round Accrington Stanley produced a great result in winning 1-0 at Blackpool. Unfortunately Accrington's season was soon to fall apart because of severe financial difficulties. On March 6th they were due to play Burnley at home in their Second Round tie, but the game was never played and just days later they were to resign their place in the Football League. It is interesting to speculate that if this Lancashire Cup game against their First Division neighbours had actually gone ahead, could it perhaps have attracted a big enough crowd to give Stanley at least a temporary stay of execution.

In the event Accrington scratched from the competition, with Burnley being given a walk over into the Semi-Finals. In this game Burnley were 3-2 winners over Blackburn Rovers, their opponents in the previous years Final, and thus went through to their third successive Lancashire Cup Final.

Their opponents in the Final were Liverpool. They had defeated Chester, Rochdale, and Manchester United to reach the Final.

For the third year running the Lancashire Cup Final was played at Burnley's Turf Moor ground, and for the third year running it was Burnley who were victorious. They were 2-1 winners with Ian Towers getting both their goals. Liverpool goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence had to go off injured, but a Burnley penalty was saved while he was off the pitch.

Burnley had now been Lancashire Cup winners three years in succession, becoming only the second club to have achieved this impressive feat. Just six days before the Lancashire Cup Final was played, Burnley had been beaten by Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup Final at Wembley. It was an illustration of the strength in depth then at the club that none of the players involved in the FA Cup Final had gone on to play in the Lancashire Cup Final.

There were five Burnley players who had appeared in all three winning Finals. Andy Lochhead, Fred Smith, and John Talbut had three times been winners and had yet to taste defeat in a Final, while Ron Fenton and Trevor Meredith had now played in four Lancashire Cup Finals, having also been in the Burnley team which had been losing Finalists in 1956-57.

The Liverpool side included Tommy Lawrence, Tommy Smith, and Chris Lawler, who would all be important members of Liverpool's great side of the 1960s.

Burnley 1961-62

1962-63

For this season the Lancashire Cup was down to 15 clubs, with the previous season's casualties Accrington Stanley not having been replaced. Having lost their Football League place, Accrington were now members of the Lancashire Combination. However they would struggle on as a non-league club for little more than a year before being wound up.

The loss of Accrington brought an end to an extremely long spell without there being any changes to the participants in the Lancashire Cup. The same 16 teams had been competing unaltered since the 1946-47 season. With an odd number of teams now in the competition, Preston North End were the lucky team to be given a bye in the First Round draw.

In Lancashire Cup games it was now the agreement that First and Second Division clubs should play a 'Central League strength side or stronger', while Third and Fourth Division clubs were expected to field their full strength team.

Like 1946-47 before it, 1962-63 was a football season that was badly affected by the weather. It was the winter of the big freeze, with very little football being played at all during January and February. By the time conditions had sufficiently improved in March, clubs were left with a severe backlog of fixtures.

The First Round games had been successfully completed over a two month period, but only one Second Round match had been played by the time the bad weather had set in. When regular football was resumed in March 1963, the Lancashire Cup was not seen by the clubs as that high a priority. Eventually two more Second Round games did get played, but as the 1962-63 season was belatedly brought to a close it was decided that the remaining fixtures should be carried over to the start of the 1963-64 season. This may have seemed a good idea at the time, but when the new season commenced it was decided not to play any of the outstanding 1962-63 games.

In one of the Second Round games that did get played Blackpool defeated Burnley 3-1. After being Lancashire Cup winners three seasons running, Burnley had been knocked out of the competition. However with the 1962-63 Lancashire Cup having effectively become null and void, they would have another chance to retain the trophy in 1963-64.

1963-64

A Lancashire Cup with 15 clubs was not really satisfactory. Rather than stay with this uneven number of clubs, a solution was found to bring the number of participants back up to 16. It was decided that the 16th place should be offered to the winners of the previous seasons Lancashire Junior Cup competition. Interestingly this was a return of a practice that had been one of the rewards promised when the Lancashire Junior Cup had first been introduced for in the 1885-86 season.

For 1963-64 this meant that Lancashire Combination team Morecambe were in the Lancashire Cup. It was the first time that Morecambe had ever played in the competition, and by playing in the 'senior' cup they had forfeited the right to defend the Lancashire Junior Cup trophy. Unfortunately their time in the Lancashire Cup was to be very brief. In the First Round they were drawn at home to Manchester City, and they were soundly beaten 4-1 in front of a 2,200 crowd at Christie Park.

There were to be plenty of goals in this seasons competition. In the First Round Manchester United were 5-2 winners over Burnley to ensure that the cup holders would not be retaining the trophy two years on. Barrow were 6-2 winners over Preston North End, while Southport produced a 5-3 victory over Blackpool after extra time. The two Semi-Finals were also high scoring, with Blackburn Rovers defeating Manchester City 5-1, and with Everton winning 6-3 at Manchester United.

Although the Finalists had been decided as early as mid-April, the Final itself did not get played until the 1964-65 season. It was originally planned that the game would be played sometime during the first three weeks of the season, but it was eventually October before a mutually acceptable date could be found. The game was played at Everton's Goodison Park, and it was one of the most one-sided Lancashire Cup Finals ever. Home side Everton were 7-0 up after 65 minutes, and looked to be well on their way to be reaching a double figures score. However it was Blackburn who scored the next goal on 67 minutes, and following this there were then to be no further goals in the final quarter of the game. Everton were 7-1 winners, with the 'golden vision' Alex Young having scored four of the Everton goals.

It was the sixth time that Everton had been Lancashire Cup winners, although it had been 24 years since their previous success in the 1939-40 season. Everton may have fielded their reserve team, but it did include three players who were more associated with first team football. At this time Gordon West was the goalkeeper who had attracted the highest transfer fee in English football, while Scottish International Alex Young's four goal performance would earn him an immediate recall to the Everton first team. Welsh international Roy Vernon was playing in his second Lancashire Cup Final, having previously played in a losing Final for Everton's opponents Blackburn Rovers.

The unfortunate Blackburn goalkeeper to have conceded the 7 goals was Bob Jones. With this defeat he had not been able to emulate the achievement of his father, also Bob Jones, who had been the Bolton Wanderers goalkeeper in their 1931-32 and 1933-34 Lancashire Cup winning sides.

1964-65

This time the 16th place in the Lancashire Cup was filled by Chorley, winners of the 1963-64 Lancashire Junior Cup competition. Over the years Chorley had been accepted as Lancashire Cup entrants on more than 20 occasions, but this was their first season playing in the competition since 1935-36.

Chorley were not penalised as Morecambe had been in 1963-64, as they were also allowed to play in the Lancashire Junior Cup. In actual fact Chorley went on to win the Lancashire Junior Cup for the second year running, but they failed to make any impact in the senior competition. In the First Round they were drawn at home to Preston North End, and in front of a 2,640 attendance they were beaten 2-1 by their Football League neighbours.

The First Round tie between Bolton Wanderers and Blackpool turned into something of a marathon. It took three months and four games with a total of seven hours play to find a winner. A drawn game was played at Bolton, then two drawn games at Blackpool which both went to extra time, before the two teams met again at Bolton with away team Blackpool emerging 2-1 winners.

Two of the other First Round ties produced scorelines, which were a throwback to the type of scores that had once been commonplace in the early years of the competition. In their first meeting Chester had drawn 0-0 at home with Burnley, but in the replay at Turf Moor the Clarets ran riot with an 8-1 victory. Fellow Division One side Blackburn Rovers had been even more dominant, winning 9-0 away at Oldham Athletic, with eight of their goals being scored in the second half.

Burnley went on to record two more impressive victories to reach the Final. In the Second Round they were 3-1 winners away to Lancashire Cup holders Everton, and in the Semi-Final they were 5-1 winners at home to Preston North End. Blackburn followed their 9-0 away win with a 4-0 home defeat to Liverpool. However in their Semi-Final tie Liverpool themselves were easily defeated 3-0 by Fourth Division Southport.

The Final was played at Turf Moor, with Southport putting up a good fight against the Lancashire Cup specialists. It was 0-0 at half time, but two goals midway through the second half through Ray Pointer and Ian Towers were sufficient to see Burnley yet again take possession of the trophy. It was Burnley's eighth Lancashire Cup success, and they had now been winners in four out of the last five competitions that had been completed.

1965-66

For the second year running, Chorley took their place in the Lancashire Cup as a result of them having been winners of the previous seasons Lancashire Junior Cup competition. This time they were drawn at home to Burnley, and by all accounts they were perhaps a little unfortunate not to defeat the Lancashire Cup holders on what was a very windy night. It was a 1-1 draw, but Burnley's goal was described as a 'goal in a million' having been scored from a wind assisted 90 yard clearance by goalkeeper Harry Thomson. The replay was played a month later with Chorley being soundly beaten 4-0 to yet again go down at the first hurdle.

The First Round tie between Everton and Blackburn Rovers was to drag on a little. The two teams met at Goodison Park on October 26th with the result a 2-2 draw. A replay was arranged for November 23rd, but this was postponed. Subsequently games on February 8th and February 22nd were also postponed, and it was March 15th before the replay was played with Blackburn winning 2-1. This meant that it had taken almost five months to get a result after the original drawn game.

Burnley were again to reach the Lancashire Cup Final, defeating Preston North End in the Second Round and Rochdale in the Semi-Final. As in 1964-65, their opponents in the Final were a Fourth Division side. In the First Round Barrow had defeated Liverpool 3-2 at home in front of a crowd of 5,576, and had then gone on to win at Bury and at home to Blackpool.

The Final was played at Barrow's Holker Street ground, with an impressive crowd of 7,158 turning up to see if Barrow could pull off a surprise. All this was of little consequence to an all conquering Burnley, and on the night they were in a determined mood to retain the trophy. They opened the scoring after just 2 minutes through Les Latcham, and then went on to complete a comprehensive 4-0 victory.

It was Burnley's ninth Lancashire Cup success, and their fifth in a period of seven seasons - a feat which not even the Blackburn Rovers team of the 1880s could equal. While other clubs had perhaps been a little indifferent to the competition in the 1960s, Burnley had treated it with some respect and had been anxious that the Lancashire Cup should continue to be displayed in the Burnley trophy cabinet.

The Burnley team again contained several familiar names. In particular Fred Smith, who had now played in five Lancashire Cup Final winning sides, which meant that he had equalled the record for an individual set by Fergie Suter in the 1880s. Additionally John Talbut had now played in four winning sides, while six other players were making their second appearance in a Lancashire Cup winning team.

1966-67

For the 1966-67 season the Lancashire Cup was back to being a competition solely for Lancashire clubs. 'Outsiders' Chester were no longer participants, dropping out after playing in the Lancashire Cup each year since the 1940-41 season. They had been Lancashire Cup winners once and losing Finalists once, and their inclusion had for many years ensured that the Lancashire Cup was a truly 'senior' competition in that it had been played for only by clubs in the Football League.

The number of clubs was kept at 16 by the inclusion of two non-league clubs, Wigan Athletic and Morecambe. Wigan were there as the 1965-66 Lancashire Junior Cup winners, while Morecambe would go on to be Lancashire Combination Champions at the end of the 1966-67 season.

The First Round saw the exit of many of the big name clubs. Manchester City were defeated 5-2 by Fourth Division Barrow, while Liverpool were defeated 3-2 after extra time in a replay by Fourth Division Southport. Manchester United were defeated 2-1 by Third Division Oldham Athletic. In other games Blackburn Rovers defeated holders Burnley, while Blackpool defeated Everton. Perhaps the biggest surprise was Morecambe's 2-0 defeat of Bolton Wanderers. It was the first victory by a non-league side since they had been accepted back in the competition for the 1963-64 season. Attendances were very encouraging. Wigan Athletic attracted 4,069 for their game with Preston, while the Oldham Athletic versus Manchester United game had an attendance of 10,484.

In the Second Round Morecambe were defeated at home 2-1 by Barrow, and this was to be a season when the lower division Football League teams dominated the competition.

With their floodlights out of action, Southport were forced to play their Second Round tie against Blackpool on a mid-week afternoon in February. They were 3-0 winners, and considering the circumstances a 1,100 crowd was quite respectable.

Three of the four Semi-Finalists came from the lower divisions. In these games Barrow were 1-0 winners over Blackburn Rovers, while Oldham Athletic were 2-1 winners over Southport. This meant that the Final would be between Third Division Oldham Athletic and Fourth Division Barrow.

The Final was played at Boundary Park, with home side Oldham winning by a 2-0 scoreline. Both Oldham goals were scored by Ian Towers, a player who had scored two goals in the 1961-62 Final and one goal in the 1964-65 Final while playing for his former club Burnley. This was the first season that substitutes had been allowed in Lancashire Cup ties, with Barrow's Billy McAdams replacing the injured Malcolm Edwards after 30 minutes to become the first substitute to be used in a Lancashire Cup Final.

It was only the second time that Oldham Athletic had been Lancashire Cup winners. Their previous success had been as long ago as 1907-08, which was their first season as a Football League club.

This was the second successive season that Barrow had reached the Lancashire Cup Final only for them to end up as losing Finalists. However Barrow supporters did have something to celebrate in 1966-67, with them finishing third in the Fourth Division to gain their first ever promotion as a Football League team.

1967-68

The 1967-68 season saw an increase in the number of non-league clubs wanting to play in the Lancashire Cup, with Lancashire Combination clubs Burscough, Chorley, Morecambe, and Netherfield, plus Cheshire League club Wigan Athletic all submitting letters of application that they be accepted into the competition.

In the event Burscough were rejected because they did not have the required ground facilities, but the other four clubs were found to be acceptable. Morecambe and Wigan Athletic were being retained from the previous season, while Chorley were making a return after a two year break. Kendal-based Netherfield were making their first appearance in the competition, which meant it was the first time that any club from Westmorland had played in the competition. All previous outsiders in the Lancashire Cup had been from counties to the south of Lancashire.

The inclusion of the leading non-league clubs had certainly added a little spice to the Lancashire Cup. In particular the non-league clubs were especially eager to get a good result against the Football League sides, even if these clubs were not necessarily fielding their strongest teams.

At this time the ruling was that Football League Third and Fourth Division clubs should field their full strength team when playing Lancashire Cup ties. Furthermore First and Second Division clubs were allowed to field their reserve teams, as long as there were four players with substantial experience.

The addition of two new clubs meant that there were now 18 participating teams. This necessitated that there be a First Round of just two games to get the numbers down so that the competition could continue on a straight knock-out basis. Consideration was given that this First Round should only involve the four non-league clubs, but it was felt more appropriate that all clubs be treated on equal terms. For convenience the first two rounds were drawn at the same time, and in practice two of the Second Round ties had already been played before any of the First Round games had taken place.

The draw was to throw up an all Liverpool derby in the First Round, with home side Liverpool running out 5-2 winners over Everton. The other game saw Morecambe drawn at home to Blackburn Rovers. Blackburn chose to field their first team, but on the day they were humiliated by Morecambe with the non-leaguers winning 2-1.

In the Second Round Chorley also put up a great fight to win through against Football League opposition. It took them three games to defeat Blackpool 2-1, following 2-2 draws on both clubs grounds. Perhaps this was some belated revenge for the goings on in the 1903-04 season, when they had defeated Blackpool 3-1 only for the victory to be subsequently declared void.

Southport played their Second Round game with Liverpool in the week before an important FA Cup tie. Not wanting to take any chances with injuries they fielded their complete reserve team, and they were not disgraced with Liverpool just winning a close game by a 2-1 scoreline. Unfortunately the Lancashire FA did not see things in quite the same way, and Southport were fined £50 for fielding an understrength team.

Following on from their success over Blackburn, Morecambe were to be the real surprise packages of the competition. In the Second Round they were 1-0 winners over Netherfield, then they defeated Bury 1-0, before winning 1-0 at Oldham Athletic to reach the Lancashire Cup Final.

Their opponents in the Final were Burnley, who had reached this stage without conceding a goal. In the Second Round they had been 5-0 winners over Preston North End, then in the Third Round they managed to succeed where Blackpool had failed by defeating Chorley 2-0. In their Semi-Final they ended Barrow's hopes of a third successive Lancashire Cup Final appearance with a 1-0 home win.

The Final was played at Morecambe's Christie Park, which was a new venue for a Lancashire Cup Final. In practice the game was played to bring down the curtain on the season after both clubs had completed their league programmes. Morecambe had been most successful, and before the kick off the team were formally presented with the trophy as Lancashire Combination Champions. Burnley were strong favourites to win the Lancashire Cup for the sixth time in nine seasons, but it was Morecambe who were to complete the season with yet another trophy. Arnold Timmins opened the scoring for Morecambe, only for Martin Dobson to equalise, but it was a Timmins penalty that was eventually to win the match for Morecambe.

MONDAY, 13th MAY — LANCASHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL

MORECAMBE v BURNLEY

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

MORECAMBE TEAM — BURNLEY TEAM

Colours: All White — Colours: Claret and Blue

Referee:
Linesmen:

ATKINSONS — *In Business for Sport*
44a, REGENT ROAD, MORECAMBE — Tel. 1541

After being Lancashire Junior Cup winners on four occasions, it was the first time that Morecambe had been Lancashire Cup winners. Significantly it was the first time that a non-league team had won the Lancashire Cup since Southport Central in the 1904-05 season.

Playing for Burnley, and making his sixth appearance for them in a Lancashire Cup Final was Fred Smith. By playing in six Finals, he had equalled the record for the number of Final appearances held jointly by Jimmy Brown and Fergie Suter from the 1880s. It was the first time that Fred Smith had tasted defeat in a Final, and it prevented him from surpassing Fergie Suter in the number of winning appearances by an individual.

1968-69

The format of the Lancashire Cup remained unchanged from the previous season. This meant that again two First Round matches would be necessary in order to bring the numbers down to 16 for the competition to become a straight knock out. The same four non-league teams were again involved, but this season they were all now members of the newly formed Northern Premier League.

Holders Morecambe were not granted any favours in the draw, being one of the four clubs involved at the First Round stage. However they continued where they had left off the previous season and were again victorious over Football League opposition in defeating Blackpool by a 2-0 scoreline.

Despite this early success it was not to be a good year for non-league clubs. In the next round Morecambe were defeated 2-1 by Manchester City, and there were to be no non-league teams left in the last eight when the Third Round draw was made.

This was a season when two big name clubs were to contest the Lancashire Cup Final - Liverpool and Manchester United. Liverpool had reached the Final with three 1-0 victories. These had been away to Burnley, at home to Preston North End, and then away to Manchester City.

Like Morecambe the previous season, Manchester United had been required to meet and defeat four teams in order to reach the Final. In the First Round they had beaten Netherfield 5-0, then in the Second Round they had beaten Blackburn Rovers 2-0 away. After a 0-0 draw at Oldham Athletic in front of a good crowd of 5,736, they had defeated the Latics 4-2 in the replay at Old Trafford in front of an even better crowd of 6,770. Finally they had defeated Barrow 3-1 in the Semi-Final which was played at Holker Street in front of another good crowd of 6,777.

The Final was played at Old Trafford, and like Liverpool's three previous games in this seasons competition the winner was decided with just a single goal being scored. However on this occasion Liverpool were not successful, and it was home side Manchester United who were victorious, with Alan Gowling scoring the winning goal in the 65th minute.

It was the eleventh time that Manchester United had been Lancashire Cup winners, although one of these successes had been in 1919-20 when Liverpool and Manchester United had been declared joint winners. Although on this occasion it may have been Manchester United's reserve team which had won the Lancashire Cup, they had still been able to field an impressive star-studded side. Just a year earlier three of their players, Alex Stepney, Shay Brennan, and Bill Foulkes, had been in the Manchester United team which had become the first English side to win the European Cup.

Manchester United's reserves may have been Lancashire Cup winners, but it was Liverpool's reserves who would finish the season as dominant champions of the Central League. When all games had been played they were ten points ahead of the second placed team, which just happened to be Manchester United. Liverpool's side included Ray Clemence, Alec Lindsay, and Brian Hall, who would all go on to greater things in Bill Shankly's all conquering Liverpool side of the early 1970s.

1969-70

At a meeting of the Lancashire Cup committee in July 1969 a number of important decisions were made. The first was a change of name. For many years the Lancashire Cup had been commonly known as the Lancashire Senior Cup to distinguish it from the very popular Lancashire Junior Cup competition. For 1969-70 it was formally re-branded as the Lancashire Challenge Cup, while the Lancashire Junior Cup became known as the Lancashire Challenge Trophy.

There were also some financial changes. It was approved that the Lancashire FA's share of the receipts from games played in the rounds prior to the Semi-Finals should be increased from 20% to 25%. Also it was confirmed that participating clubs would be fined £100 if they did not field a side of the appropriate strength. Football League First and Second Division sides were allowed to field Central League strength sides, but all other clubs were expected to field full strength teams.

This time there were five non-league teams in the competition. The four teams which had played in the previous season were joined by Great Harwood. They had been Lancashire Combination Champions in 1968-69 and were now members of the Northern Premier League. It was the first time that a team from Great Harwood had played in the Lancashire Cup since the 1880s.

With 19 teams participating, this meant that there would need to be six teams involved at the First Round stage. As a reward for them winning the 1968-69 competition Manchester United were given exemption to the Second Round, but losing Finalists Liverpool were not granted any favours. In the First Round they were drawn at home to Oldham Athletic, but agreed to give up their home advantage, only to then be defeated 5-3 by their hosts. The two non-league clubs involved at the First Round stage had mixed fortunes. Wigan Athletic were 2-1 winners over Southport, while Chorley were beaten 2-1 at home by Manchester City.

In the Second Round Oldham followed up their victory over Liverpool with a 3-0 win over Manchester City, although this was only after the two teams had first battled through two drawn games. The four remaining non-league clubs were unlucky to be paired together in two of the Second Round games. Netherfield were 2-1 winners at Morecambe, while Wigan Athletic and Great Harwood played a 0-0 draw before Great Harwood were 2-0 winners at their home Showground.

The Third Round match between Great Harwood and Manchester United attracted great interest, with a capacity crowd of 5,000 being present in the hope of Great Harwood producing an upset. This did not happen, and the game proved to be a one-sided affair with Manchester United recording a landslide 8-1 victory over the Northern Premier League club.

Burnley were to reach yet another Final without conceding a goal, although they were helped with their three games all being played at home. They were 2-0 winners over Rochdale, 2-0 winners over Bury, and then 4-0 winners over Oldham Athletic.

Barrow had a less easy ride to reach the Final. They were 2-1 winners over Preston North End, then were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Netherfield, before winning the replay 1-0 away to their nearest neighbours in the competition. In their Semi-Final they were held to a 0-0 home draw by Manchester United, only to go to Old Trafford and produce a 2-1 victory in extra time against the reigning Lancashire Cup holders.

This meant it was again a Barrow versus Burnley Final. It was a repeat of the 1965-66 Final, with the contestants having been the two most consistent teams in the Lancashire Cup in recent seasons. While they could not match Burnley's record of the last 10 years, Barrow could now boast having been Lancashire Cup Finalists three times in five years, and they had reached the Semi-Finals in both the other two seasons.

Although the Final was played at Turf Moor, Barrow were unlucky not to come away with the trophy. In a most entertaining game, Barrow were 1-0 up after 30 minutes through a Jim Mulvaney header and in the second half they took a 2-0 lead with Mick Hartland scoring another headed goal. This was the score with 16 minutes to go, and with Barrow playing spoiling tactics it looked like Burnley would be defeated. In the event Burnley were to make a great comeback, scoring with a Geoff Nulty header and then an own goal, before a Len Kinsella penalty goal won the match 3-2 for Burnley after Steve Kindon had been brought down.

BURNLEY FOOTBALL AND ATHLETIC COMPANY LIMITED

SEASON 1969-70

No. 33 Thursday, 9th April, 1970 Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY CUP FINAL

BURNLEY		BARROW	
1	RODNEY JONES	1	GEORGE HEYS
2	MICK DOCHERTY	2	BRIAN DEAN
3	RAY TERRENT	3	CHARLIE COOPER
4	BRIAN O'NEIL	4	DICK DAVIS
5	COLIN WALDRON	5	BRIAN ARROWSMITH
6	WILF WRIGLEY	6	MICHAEL HARTLAND
7	DOUG COLLINS	7	EDDIE GARBUTT
8	ERIC PROBERT	8	TONY MORRIN
9	GEOFF NULTY	9	IAN HOPKINSON
10	STEVE KINDON	10	JIM MULVANEY
11	LEN KINSELLA	11	DAVID STORY
Sub		Sub	

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME PRICE TWOPENCE

It was a big disappointment for Barrow, but Burnley were yet again Lancashire Cup winners. Most of the Burnley players who had picked up regular Lancashire Cup honours in the 1960s had now moved on. However goalscorer Len Kinsella was playing for them in his third Lancashire Cup winning side, while Brian O'Neil was playing in his second winning side.

This was Barrow's third Lancashire Cup Final defeat in a period of five years. Mick Hartland was the only Barrow player who had been a member of all three losing Final sides.

1970-71

The Lancashire Cup was contested by the same teams that had played in the 1969-70 competition. However for the new season there was one change made that the Lancashire FA considered long overdue. For 1970-71 the entry fee for clubs to play in the Lancashire Cup was raised to £10, having previously been just £3-3s-0d.

One of the First Round games saw Burnley drawn to play Rochdale. Surprisingly the Lancashire Cup holders were held to a 1-1 draw on their own ground, and were then defeated 1-0 in the replay. In another First Round game Morecambe were paired with Netherfield, and for the second season in succession it was the Westmorland club who ran out the victors.

In 1970-71 the outstanding non-leaguers were Chorley. In the Second Round it took them two games to get the better of their close rivals Wigan Athletic, but in the Third Round they

were 4-2 winners over Bury. Their opponents in the Semi-Final were Third Division side Rochdale.

After defeating Burnley, Rochdale had continued to produce some great results in the competition. They were 2-0 winners at Blackburn Rovers, and then were 3-1 winners at home to Everton. Their Semi-Final match with Chorley proved to be a closely fought affair, with both clubs anxious to reach the Final. The two teams drew 0-0 at Chorley's Victory Park, but in the replay at Spotland it was the Football League side who were victorious by a 2-1 scoreline.

Rochdale's opponents in the Final were near neighbours and traditional rivals Oldham Athletic. In the Second Round Oldham had drawn 2-2 at Great Harwood, only to win 9-0 in the replay at Boundary Park. Following on from their 8-1 home defeat to Manchester United in 1969-70, it was Great Harwood's second crushing defeat in successive years. With this Oldham had become the first team to score 9 goals in a game since Blackburn Rovers in 1964-65, when it had been Oldham themselves who had been on the receiving end of a 9-0 defeat to the Rovers. Following their victory Oldham then went on to defeat two of the big guns in the competition. In the Second Round they were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Manchester City, but in the replay also at home Oldham were convincing 4-1 winners. In the Semi-Final Oldham were 1-0 winners over Liverpool, a great result as Liverpool reserves were then well on their way to being Central League Champions for the third successive season.

The Final was played at Rochdale's Spotland ground, which was a new venue for a Lancashire Cup Final. It was a most competitive game, with home side Rochdale winning a five goal thriller. Oldham had opened the scoring, only for Rochdale to come back strongly to hold a 2-1 lead at half time. In the second half Rochdale extended their lead to 3-1, then Oldham pulled one back, but Rochdale were able to hold on to record a 3-2 victory. Two goal hero for Rochdale was David Cross, who was later to become an Oldham Athletic player.

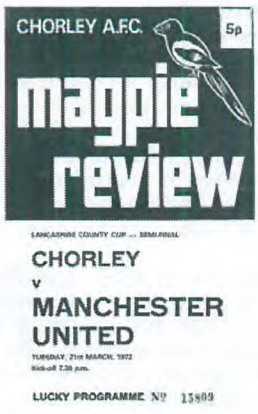
It was only the second time that Rochdale had been Lancashire Cup winners. Their previous victory had been in 1948-49, and they had failed to reach a Final in the intervening years.

1971-72

The Lancashire Cup was continuing to attract the interest of Lancashire's leading non-league clubs. In addition to the five which had played in the 1970-71 competition, this season applications for entry were also received from Fleetwood, Skelmersdale United, and South Liverpool, three more clubs who fancied their chances against Football League opposition. However in 1971-72 there was to be no further increase in numbers, with the Lancashire Cup committee taking the view that it needed to be maintained as a senior competition. It was decided that there should be a reduction in the number of participants, and for the first time in five years it was to be contested by exactly 16 teams. The two non-league teams accepted for entry were Chorley and Wigan Athletic, while Great Harwood, Morecambe, and Netherfield were dropped from the competition.

In the event both Chorley and Wigan Athletic were to show they were well worth their places among the elite. In the First Round Wigan Athletic were 2-0 winners over Manchester City in front of a 4,056 crowd. In the Second Round they were drawn at home to Liverpool, but this time they could not rise to the occasion and were defeated 2-0 by the Anfield men.

Chorley were to do even better. In the First Round they defeated Bolton Wanderers 2-0 at home, and in the Second Round they defeated Preston North End 4-1 at home. Their Semi-Final opponents were Manchester United, and this was a tie to attract a great deal of interest. The two sides met at Chorley's Victory Park, and played out an exciting 2-2 draw in front of a 4,317 crowd. However for the second season running Chorley were denied an appearance in a Lancashire Cup Final, with Manchester United winning the replay 3-1 at Old Trafford.



In a First Round replay Preston North End were 2-1 winners away to Blackburn Rovers. It was described as an all-time low for Rovers, as it had been Blackburn's first team that had been humiliated by Preston's reserve side.

Before meeting Chorley, in the first two rounds Manchester United had met and defeated the two 1970-71 Lancashire Cup Finalists Oldham Athletic and Rochdale. Manchester United's opponents in the Final were Burnley, who had defeated Barrow and Southport in the first two rounds, before overcoming Liverpool 1-0 in their Semi-Final.

The Final was played at Old Trafford, and it was to be an exciting see-saw match. Steve Kindon opened the scoring for Burnley after 24 minutes with a header, then just before half time Eric Young equalised for United. On 69 minutes Tony Whelan put Manchester United ahead, but about 10 minutes later Burnley's Arthur Bellamy netted to put the sides back on level terms. With this the game finished a 2-2 draw.

The Final replay was at Turf Moor, and it proved to be an entirely different game. This time Burnley were comprehensive 3-0 winners over what was described as 'mediocre opposition'. Martin Dobson opened the scoring after just 3 minutes, with Leighton James then scoring from a header and then later from a free kick to complete the scoring. In reality the Manchester United side included several big name players, but Burnley themselves had fielded a particularly strong side in this second game.

It was the 11th time that Burnley had been Lancashire Cup winners, which put them one ahead of Bolton Wanderers and only one win behind Blackburn Rovers on the overall winners list. Burnley's record in recent seasons had been quite remarkable. In a run of 13 seasons they had been Lancashire Cup winners on seven occasions, and during this time they had also once been losing Finalists.

1972-73

This season had seen a reduction in the number of Lancashire clubs playing at Football League level. Barrow were now members of the Northern Premier League, after having failed to gain re-election to the Football League Fourth Division at the end of the 1971-72 season.

Despite there now only being 13 Lancashire Football League clubs, the number of entrants was increased by two from the previous season. Back in the Lancashire Cup after a one year absence were Great Harwood and Morecambe, while Barrow, Chorley, and Wigan Athletic were once more among the participants.

With 18 clubs, two First Round games were necessary. These were both contested by non-league teams, with Morecambe defeating Barrow, and with Wigan Athletic defeating Great Harwood.

As in the two previous seasons, Chorley were victors over Football League opposition. In the Second Round, they pulled off a great result in winning 1-0 at Bolton Wanderers. However in the Third Round they were given a footballing lesson by Preston North End, who were 5-1 winners at Chorley's Victory Park.

Liverpool reached the Final by winning their three ties on their opponents grounds. They were 2-1 winners at Morecambe, then 3-2 winners at Wigan Athletic, before winning 2-0 at Preston North End in the Semi-Final.

Their opponents in the Final were Bury. The Shakers had been 2-1 winners over Manchester United in the First Round, and had then been victorious over Rochdale and Oldham Athletic.

It was a repeat of the 1946-47 Final, when Liverpool had triumphed 2-1 over Bury at Anfield. This time the Final

was played at Bury's Gigg Lane ground, but it was visitors Liverpool who were again 2-1 winners. As on so many previous occasions it was the club who would be defeated who scored first, with George Hamstead giving Bury the lead after 11 minutes. This remained the score at the interval, but in the second half goals from Peter Spiring and Kevin Kewley ensured that Liverpool were the victors.

It was the 10th time that Liverpool had been Lancashire Cup winners, but it was their first success since the 1958-59 season. A Lancashire Cup win had been long overdue for Liverpool, whose reserves had in recent seasons virtually made the Central League Championship their own.

1973-74

The Lancashire Cup was again restored to 16 competitors. Missing from the previous season were Barrow and Great Harwood, the two non-league teams which in 1972-73 had exited the competition at the First Round stage. Great Harwood had played in the Lancashire Cup in three of the last four seasons, but had failed to win a game. Barrow had long been stalwarts of the competition. They had first played in the Lancashire Cup in the 1901-02 season, and had been Lancashire Cup winners in 1954-55, as well as being losing Finalists on four occasions.

In the First Round the 1972-73 Lancashire Cup Finalists Bury and Liverpool were drawn together. The tie was played at Gigg Lane, with the two teams producing an exciting 4-4 draw. A week later the replay took place, and it was again at Gigg Lane with home side Bury winning 2-1 to get some satisfaction for their defeat of the same score in the previous seasons Final.

Chorley and Wigan Athletic were knocked out in the First Round. However following on from their Lancashire Cup success in 1967-68, it was Northern Premier League side Morecambe who again produced some great results over Football League teams to reach the Final. In the First Round it took them three games to defeat Southport, then in the Second Round it took them two games to defeat Everton. Morecambe were getting better, and in their Semi-Final played after the league season had been completed, they produced their best result in defeating Manchester United by a 1-0 scoreline.

Their opponents in the Final were Manchester City, who had three times been victorious on their travels. First they were 2-1 winners at Oldham Athletic, then they were 3-1 winners at Bury, and in their Semi-Final were 3-1 winners at Bolton Wanderers.

The Final was played at Christie Park, and it was arranged for a Saturday afternoon for the first time since the 1954-55 season. Home side Morecambe went into the game on a high. Two weeks earlier they had become FA Challenge Trophy winners by defeating Dartford in the Final played at Wembley, and just three days earlier they had won their Lancashire Cup Semi-Final tie over Manchester United. Unfortunately it was one game too many for Morecambe, and they could not repeat their success of the 1967-68 season. On the day Manchester City were much too strong, and they were comfortable 3-0 winners over the non-leaguers.

It was the sixth time that Manchester City had been Lancashire Cup winners. Although it was their first success since 1952-53, on this occasion they would be Lancashire Cup holders for eight years without actually playing a game.

The 1973-74 season was to be the last appearance in the Lancashire Cup for several clubs which had played an important part in the competition's history. At the time of writing six time winners Everton and six time winners Manchester City have both yet to make a return to the competition, while ten time winners Liverpool have only just returned after over 30 years of absence. Also not to have played in the Lancashire Cup since 1973-74 are non-leaguers Chorley, the club which can boast most Lancashire Junior Cup Final wins.

1974-82

During the 1973-74 season there was a lot of discussion about the future of the Lancashire Cup competition. In practice there had been a growing discontent with many of the member clubs having long considered the playing of Lancashire Cup ties as unwanted intrusions into their fixture lists.

The Bolton Wanderers manager Jimmy Armfield came up with an interesting proposal. His idea was that the Lancashire Cup should become a pre-season tournament limited to just 16 teams, with the Football League clubs being joined by the leading non-league sides which had to earn their places. Similar to the format adopted for the 1918-19 season, the 16 clubs would be placed into 4 mini-leagues with each team playing one game against each of the other teams in their group. The four group winners would be drawn to contest the Semi-Finals, and then there would be a Final to determine the Lancashire Cup winner. His belief was that the whole tournament could be completed within two weeks, and that it would be good for the clubs as it was becoming increasingly difficult for them to arrange suitable pre-season friendlies.

In the event his suggestion was not adopted, and the decision was taken that there would be no Lancashire Cup competition staged during the 1974-75 season. Rather than play matches with some of the gate money going to the Lancashire FA, a compromise was reached that clubs would each make an appropriate donation to ensure that the Lancashire FA did not lose out too much financially. This 'opt out and pay rather than play' policy may have been agreed, but there was to be some quibbling on the actual amounts of money that clubs would donate. Interestingly the comparatively wealthy Manchester United were of the opinion that the Lancashire FA's suggestion of £250 per club was too high.

Although the Lancashire Cup may have been suspended, the Lancashire FA did still have lingering hopes that some kind of competition could be organised for the latter part of the 1974-75 season. Yet this was not to be, and for eight years there were to be no Lancashire Cup matches played. There had been an enforced break during the First World War, but this had been the first time that clubs had voluntarily chosen not to take part in the competition. Unfortunately there was to be no Lancashire Cup competition in the 1977-78 season when the Lancashire FA celebrated its centenary.

For eight years the Lancashire Cup continued to exist as an item in the accounts with the Football League clubs continuing to make appropriate donations on an annual basis. However with a high rate of inflation at this time there was to be an annual increase in these donations. In the 1978-79 season Lancashire's First Division clubs were each contributing £250, while the Second, Third, and Fourth Division clubs were each contributing £125, £75, and £40 respectively. For the 1979-80 season the figures were £300, £150, £90, and £50; and for the 1980-81 season they were £350, £175, £105, and £58.35.

For the 1982-83 season it was proposed that the figures be raised to £402.50, £201.25, £120.75, and £67. However rather than all clubs having to make a payment, there was always the alternative that a Lancashire Cup competition could be contested.

1982-83

After a gap of eight years the Lancashire Cup was revived, and in order to meet the requirements of the clubs taking part it was re-vamped as a pre-season tournament.

Across the country pre-season tournaments had been popular for a number of years, with some of the Lancashire clubs already having experience of them by playing in the Anglo-Scottish Cup and Football League Group Cup preliminary stages. As Jimmy Armfield had pointed out in 1973, it was a format that gave clubs some good competitive fixtures before the start of the league season.

For 1982-83 the Lancashire Cup was to be contested for by eight of the nine Lancashire Football League clubs who that season would be playing outside of the First Division. For the first time in its history the competition had a sponsor, the Isle of Man Tourist Board, while another important development was that there was now prize money for those teams that were successful, with £3,500 going to the cup winners and with £1,500 going to the runners-up. Those

Lancashire clubs not wanting to take part in the new competition would continue to make an appropriate donation to the Lancashire FA.

The eight teams were placed in two groups of four. The teams in each group were to play each other once, with three points being awarded for a win, one point being awarded for a draw, and with a bonus point being awarded if a team scored three goals or more. The winners of the two groups would then meet in a Final, which would be played on the ground of one of the two Finalists. All games were to be contested with no extra time being played, and perhaps recognising that the competition should not be too demanding on the players, clubs were allowed to bring on up to three of the five substitutes that they had named.

In the inaugural season the two group winners were Blackburn Rovers and Bury, who had both been unbeaten in their three qualifying games. Bury's group had been especially close with five of the six games resulting in draws, and it was only their 2-1 home victory over Rochdale which had given them the edge and a place in the Final.

Just 10 days after the tournament had opened, and just 4 days before the start of the new season, the Final was played at Bury's Gigg Lane ground. Fourth Division Bury rose to the occasion, defeating Second Division Blackburn by 2 goals to 1, with central defender Paul Hilton having the odd distinction of scoring for both sides. It was a great performance for Bury, although both sides were said to have been riddled with injuries. Brought out of storage after eight years the famous Lancashire Cup trophy was presented to the Bury captain by the chairman of the Isle of Man Tourist Board Eddy Lowey. It was the seventh time that Bury had been Lancashire Cup winners.

The new format for the Lancashire Cup was considered a success. Although the county's 'big four' Division One teams had not been involved, the eight clubs that had participated had all fielded strong sides of first team squad members. As a pre-season tournament it looked to be an ideal preparation for the new season, with teams playing competitive matches against their local rivals rather than them playing meaningless friendlies. Realistically attendances may not have been that great, but they were probably better than would have been expected for traditional pre-season friendly matches.

Lancashire Cup winners Bury went on to have a good 1982-83 season, although they were to just miss out on winning promotion from the Fourth Division. Other Lancashire clubs were to have a most disappointing season, with Bolton and Burnley both being relegated from the Second Division, and with Blackpool having to apply for re-election to Division Four for the one and only time in their history.

1983-84

The Isle of Man Tourist Board continued their sponsorship of the Lancashire Cup, and from the 1983-84 season it became better known as the 'Manx Cup'.

For 1983-84 there was one change in the participating clubs, with Lancashire's newest Football League club Wigan Athletic replacing Oldham Athletic. Wigan had been the only Football League club playing outside Division One not to be involved in the 1982-83 season. Since the abandonment of the Lancashire Cup as a straight knock-out competition in 1974 they had risen in status to become a Football League club, having been elected to take the place of another Lancashire club Southport in 1978.

For this second season of the revived competition there was also an increase in the prize money to £7,500. The cup winners would receive £3,000, the runners-up would receive £1,500, while the other six competing clubs would each receive £500. Another interesting development was that the 1983-84 Manx Cup winners would earn the right to take up a place in the following year's pre-season Football Festival to be played on the Isle of Man.

Interestingly it was Blackburn Rovers and Bury who were again the group winners, and for the second year running both teams had remained unbeaten in their three qualifying group games. At this stage Blackburn had been the outstanding team of the competition with big home victories over both Blackpool and Preston, while Bury had clinched their place in the Final with an impressive 3-2 away win over their neighbours Bolton. Attendances in 1983-84 had been comparable to those of the previous season, with the highest being the 6,451 at Burnley for their game against rivals Blackburn Rovers.

The 1983-84 Final was billed as an action replay of the 1982-83 Final, but there was one important difference in that this time the game was to be played at Blackburn's Ewood Park ground. The Final resulted in a closely fought 0-0 draw, and with no extra time to be played the game went to penalties. It was the first time that a Lancashire Cup Final had been decided in this manner, with Blackburn emerging 3-1 winners from the penalty shoot out to avenge their defeat of the previous season. This was the 13th time that Blackburn had won the trophy, but incredibly it was their first success in peace-time football since the 1910-11 season.

Both sides included several players who had figured in the previous season's Final. However Bury substitute Frank Carrodus could go back much further, having been a Lancashire Cup winner with Manchester City in the 1973-74 season.

1984-85

For the 1984-85 Manx Cup competition, there was again a slight change in the distribution of the prize money. It was now decided that the winners would get £2,500 and the runners-up £2,000, with the other six teams continuing to receive a £500 pay out.

However before the 1984-85 Manx Cup competition had even got underway, the 1983-84 winners Blackburn Rovers had already taken up the challenge and had participated in the 1984 Isle of Man Football Festival. At the group stage they had wins over St Mirren and an Isle of Man XI, but in the Final they had lost 1-0 to Sunderland in a game played at the Douglas Bowl.

Exactly a week later Blackburn were entertaining Bury in their first game of the 1984-85 Manx Cup competition. With Blackburn and Bury both drawn in the same qualifying group, it would not be possible for there to be a third consecutive Final featuring the two clubs. In the event it was Blackburn who again reached the Final, with them winning two home games as well as drawing their away game at closest challengers Bolton. Their opponents in the Final were Wigan Athletic, who had been the easy winners of the other group. Unfortunately attendances in 1984-85 were significantly down from the previous two seasons, with only one of the 12 group matches attracting a crowd of more than 2000.

The Manx Cup Final was played at Springfield Park with home side Wigan Athletic winning by a 2-1 scoreline. It was the first time that Wigan had ever won the Lancashire Cup, although as a non-league club they had been losing Finalists in the 1935-36 season.

1985-86

For the second year running the previous seasons Manx Cup holders had taken up the invitation to play in the Isle of Man Football Festival. Wigan Athletic were up against familiar opposition in their first game, losing 1-0 to Blackburn Rovers, and it was Rovers who went on to win the group before winning the overall competition with a Final victory over Stoke City.

Having already played each other on the Isle of Man, Blackburn and Wigan were to meet again just days later at Ewood Park in the Manx Cup. This time the result was a 2-2 draw, but Blackburn were soon back to their best with a 6-0 home win over Blackpool. In the event Wigan ran them close, but Blackburn were again winners of their group, thus continuing their impressive record of having reached the Lancashire Cup Final on each of the four occasions that it had been played for since the change of format. In this particular season Blackburn had been given a big advantage over their rivals in that they had played all their three group games at home. In actual fact in the four years that group matches had been played, Blackburn had been extremely fortunate with ground advantage, having played nine of their 12 games at home.

In the other group, Burnley became the first club to reach a Manx Cup Final after having previously lost a game in the competition. In their first game they had suffered a 3-1 home defeat to Bury, and this looked to have put them out of the reckoning. However they recovered superbly to record two remarkable victories - a 7-0 away win at Rochdale, and a 4-0 home win over Bolton. Bottom of this group were Rochdale, who had lost all their three games and had failed to score, with 10 goals being conceded.

The Final was played at Ewood Park, and with a crowd of 6,017, this meant that for the fourth successive season there had been an increase in the size of the attendance at a Lancashire Cup Final. Simon Garner scored the only goal of the game as Blackburn Rovers defeated their east Lancashire rivals 1-0 to become Manx Cup winners for the second time in four years. Following on from their Isle of Man success, this was the second trophy that Blackburn had won in the space of 10 days, and the 1985-86 season proper had not yet even started.

It was Blackburn's fourth Lancashire Cup Final appearance in four years, and during this period they had been fortunate in being able to field a very settled team. Seven of their players - Jim Branagan, Derek Fazackerley, Simon Garner, Terry Gennoe, David Hamilton, John Lowey, and Mick Rathbone, had been involved in all four Finals, while Glenn Keeley and Ian Miller were also cup winners for the second time.

This season was to be a low point in the history of the once mighty Preston North End. Now playing in the Fourth Division and struggling financially, they were to suffer the indignity of having to apply for re-election to the Football League. Things could only get better for the club which had once been described the 'Champions of the Football World'.

1986-87

The Manx Cup had by now become an established part of the pre-season build up. The participating Lancashire sides were able to use it as an opportunity to try out new signings, look at trialists, and to make experiments in order to finalise their best starting line-ups for the new season.

Since the Lancashire Cup had been revived in 1982, Blackburn Rovers had easily been the most successful club. As a Second Division club they were the highest ranked team playing in the Manx Cup in the 1986-87 season, yet for once things did not go to plan and they failed to reach the Final. In the event Blackburn actually finished bottom of their group, and it was Bury who proved to be the outstanding team. They clinched their place in the Final with a 3-1 home win over Blackburn, and in the end finished with more points than the other three teams in their group had got added together.

In the other group Wigan Athletic had gone into the competition as winners of the Isle of Man Football Festival, having defeated Portsmouth in the Final played at the Douglas Bowl. In the Manx Cup they continued with their good pre-season form, and were to win through to the Final as a result of two impressive away victories, being 2-0 winners at Preston, and 4-3 winners at Bolton.

The Final was played at Bury's Gigg Lane ground, with Bury running out 1-0 winners in yet another well matched Final. Although it was just four years since Bury's last Lancashire Cup success, Joe Jakub was the sole survivor from their 1982-83 winning side.

The 1980s was seeing a steady decline in the fortunes of the majority of Lancashire's town teams. In 1960-61 Blackburn Rovers, Blackpool, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, and Preston North End had all been playing in the Football League at First Division level. Already in the 1980s, both Blackpool and Preston had finished a season in the bottom four of the Fourth Division, and had consequently had to apply for re-election to the Football League. In the 1986-87 season two more teams would have their problems, with Bolton being relegated to the Fourth Division for the only time in their history, and with Burnley facing a frantic last day battle to avoid becoming the first Football League team to be automatically relegated to the GM Vauxhall Conference.

Winners and runners-up tankards, 1986-87 season

1987-88

For the 1987-88 competition the timescale for the playing of group matches was reduced by a day, with each team having to play their three games in a seven day period. The Isle of Man Department of Tourism continued with their sponsorship, but the prize money available was down on previous years. For this season the winners were to get £2,000, the runners-up £1,000, with the other six participating clubs each getting £200.

Blackburn Rovers were immediately able to make amends for their poor showing of the previous season. Although they suffered a 2-1 defeat at Burnley, they reached the Final with close victories over both Bolton Wanderers and Blackpool.

The winners of the other group were Wigan Athletic. They pulled off an impressive 3-0 victory at Bury, then coasted to a place in the Final with a 4-0 home victory over Rochdale. Unfortunately Rochdale were again the whipping boys, and for the second time in three years they were wooden spoonists in their group with no points obtained and no goals scored.

The Final was played at Ewood Park, and resulted in a 2-2 draw. As in 1983-84 the game went to penalties, and as in 1983-84 it was Blackburn who triumphed over their opponents.

It was Blackburn's fifth Final in six years, and it was the third time in this period that Blackburn had been Lancashire Cup winners. One player Simon Garner had played in all five Finals, while Terry Gennoe had also been involved in all the games, although on this occasion he was confined to the bench as the substitute goalkeeper.

1988-89

The 1988-89 competition produced a Final between Preston North End and Bolton Wanderers, two teams which had previously failed to distinguish themselves since the Lancashire Cup had been re-launched as a pre-season tournament.

Preston North End had been winners of their group, despite Blackburn Rovers again looking to be the favourites to reach the Final. Preston had been unbeaten in their first two games, but it was a fine 3-2 win at Blackburn in their third group match which took them through.

The other group provided the closest possible of finishes. The two teams involved were Bolton Wanderers and Rochdale, who both went into the final group game against each other with two 1-0 wins to their name. A late goal from Bolton's Ian Stevens resulted in the deciding game being a 1-1 draw, and this meant that both teams still had identical records. Although it was a draw a group winner had to be found, and it was Bolton who progressed to the Final by winning a penalty shoot-out. Even though they had failed to

reach the Final, it had been a great performance by Rochdale, who had often struggled against clubs playing in a higher division than themselves. They had actually won two games in the 1988-89 season, yet in the previous six seasons had won only one of the 18 games that they had played.

The Final was played at Burnden Park, and to follow a now familiar pattern it was the home side who were the victors in a very close game. The score was 1-0, with the winning goal coming from John Thomas, a player who would later go on to become a popular Preston North End player. It was Bolton's eleventh Lancashire Cup success, but it was the first time that they had been winners of the competition since the 1947-48 season.

1989-90

This season the two group winners were Blackburn Rovers and Blackpool.

Blackburn had their group all but won after the first two games. On this occasion playing all their games away from home, they were 3-0 winners at Wigan, then 2-0 winners at Burnley, and with a Final place virtually assured they were to be defeated 3-1 at Bolton. Although Wigan had made a bad start, they came back with two good wins, but it was Blackburn who held on to the pole position.

The other group proved to be a lot closer, and before the last group matches were played there were still three possible section winners. In their last game Preston North End were surprisingly beaten 2-1 at home by Rochdale, when a win would have put them top of the group. In the other game Blackpool drew 0-0 at Bury, which meant that both had 5 points at the top of the group table. However Blackpool were declared group winners on goal difference, having played all three group matches without conceding a single goal.

It was Blackpool's first appearance in a Manx Cup Final, and incredibly their first appearance in any Lancashire Cup Final since the 1953-54 season. The Final was played at Bloomfield Road, but it was Second Division Blackburn who were 1-0 winners over Third Division Blackpool through an Andy Kennedy goal.

It was the 16th time that Blackburn Rovers had been Lancashire Cup winners. They had been particularly dominant in the eight years since the competition had been revived as a pre-season competition, having been winners four times and losing Finalists on two occasions. The 1989-90 victory had been especially significant as it was the first time that the away team had been victorious since the 1973-74 season.

Goalkeeper Terry Gennoe was the one player who had been involved in all six Finals played by Blackburn since the 1982-83 season. He had actually only played in five of the Finals, as in 1987-88 he had been a non-playing substitute with Vince O'Keefe being given a run out.

Attendances in 1989-90 were greatly improved on previous seasons, and for the first time a total of over 40,000 attended the thirteen games played. The best crowd was yet again the east Lancashire derby with 9,007 spectators in attendance at the Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers fixture.

1990-91

The 1990-91 competition commenced with all four of the opening day games resulting in draws. However after this closest of all possible starts, Preston North End and Bolton Wanderers were to emerge as comfortable winners of their respective groups.

Preston were to finish unbeaten in their group, but they were aided in this success in that they played all their three games at home. They had started with a disappointing draw with Rochdale, but then importantly they had produced an impressive 4-2 victory over defending Manx Cup winners Blackburn Rovers. A 2-0 win over Bury ensured that they topped the group with four points to spare over their nearest rivals.

Bolton were also unbeaten in their group, and they had the added distinction of not conceding any goals in their three games. A 0-0 draw at Wigan was followed by a 2-0 win over Blackpool, but it was a 3-0 home win over their nearest challengers Burnley which confirmed them as the group winners.

The 1990-91 Final was a re-match of the Final played just two years earlier. As in 1988-89 the venue was Burnden Park, and it was again home side Bolton who were victorious by a single goal margin. On this occasion they were 2-1 winners, with both goals being scored by David Reeves. As in the 1988-89 Final Preston had been defeated by Bolton with goals that were scored by a player who they would later sign.

The Bolton side included six players who were survivors from their 1988-89 cup winning team. They also had Stuart Storer, who was a winner for the first time, but had previously been a losing Finalist when playing for Wigan Athletic in the 1987-88 season. In the Preston side playing against his old club was John Thomas, who had been Bolton's goalscorer in the 1988-89 Final.

1991-92

The tenth playing of a pre-season Lancashire Cup was to be the last under the sponsorship of the Isle of Man Tourist Board. For the fifth consecutive season the cup winners would be receiving £2,000 in prize money, while the losing finalists would be receiving £1,000.

As in 1990 Preston North End were winners of their group, but in the other section it was Wigan Athletic who were triumphant over favourites Bolton Wanderers.

Preston had been winners of their group with two big home victories, a 6-1 win over Bury, and a 5-1 win over Burnley. Second placed Bury had also recorded two victories, and the bottom two positions were filled by Blackburn Rovers and Burnley. Despite this apparent poor showing of the two east Lancashire rivals, it was yet again a Burnley versus Blackburn tie that had attracted the biggest attendance of the competition, with a crowd of 8,473 turning out to see the two teams battle out a 1-1 draw.

In the other group, Bolton Wanderers had been disappointing, with surprise 1-0 home defeats to both Rochdale and Wigan Athletic. In the end Wigan had won through as group winners ahead of a spirited Rochdale, but they had done this with much more modest results than Preston.

The Final was played at Wigan's Springfield Park, and on the day it was the previously high scoring Preston who were humbled. After nine seasons of single goal victories or drawn games in Manx Cup Finals, for once there was a convincing scoreline, with Wigan defeating their Division Three rivals by 4 goals to 1.

Kevin Langley was the only Wigan player to already have experience of a Manx Cup Final winning side. Now in his second spell with the Latics, in his earlier spell he had been a member of Wigan's first ever Manx Cup winning side in 1984-85. Surprisingly, although it was only four years since their last Manx Cup Final appearance, Wigan had no players in their team who had represented them in the 1987-88 Final. Included in the defeated Preston North End team was Warren Joyce, whose father Walter Joyce was an ex-Burnley player who in the 1960s had twice been a member of a Lancashire Cup winning side.

1992-93

It was the eleventh season that the Lancashire Cup had been contested as a pre-season tournament, and it was a time for change. There had been hopes that the Isle of Man Tourist Board could be persuaded to continue with their sponsorship, but this had not transpired. There had been a suggestion that the 1992-93 Final could be played on the Isle of Man, but this was not entertained as a practical solution.

After much discussion an arrangement was reached that the Nelson-based Marsden Building Society would take over as sponsors, with the competition becoming known as the 'Marsden Cup'. The new sponsorship deal was initially for a three year period, but significantly the prize money was much reduced from previous seasons. It was the agreement that the Marsden Cup winners would receive £750, while the runners-up would receive £500.

Unfortunately the 1992-93 season was to see a reduction in the number of clubs participating, with both Blackburn Rovers and Wigan Athletic missing from the previous season's entrants.

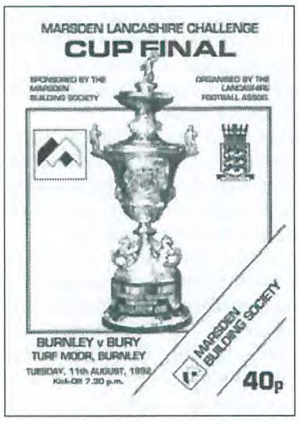
Blackburn Rovers had gained promotion from Division Two in 1991-92 via the Play-Offs, and by doing this had become one of the founder members of the newly established FA Premier League. They begged a leave of absence from the Lancashire Cup because of ground maintenance problems and because they were playing some games abroad in pre-season. Actually playing in the top flight must have been seen as a valid reason for exemption from the Lancashire Cup, with all six members of the Lancashire FA who were playing at this level now being allowed to opt out. In practice those clubs not participating in the competition were still making a valuable contribution to the Lancashire FA's funds. At the request of Burnley there was again an increase in the exemption fees. For the 1992-93 season the county's six Premier League clubs were each being asked to contribute £1,000, while should they wish to opt out, the Football League's First, Second, and Third Division clubs were each being asked to contribute £750, £500, and £250 respectively.

Wigan Athletic had been the winners of the final Manx Cup competition, and were excused from playing in the Lancashire Cup as it clashed with them taking up their place in the Isle of Man Football Festival. For this reason they were not asked to pay the £500 exemption fee.

The loss of two important clubs inevitably meant that the first Marsden Cup looked to have been de-valued as a competition. A number of solutions were considered. One possibility was that the six participating clubs be placed in a mini-league, with each team playing five fixtures and with the team topping the league becoming the Lancashire Cup winners. Another possibility for the future was that the Lancashire FA invite clubs from other county associations to participate in order to make up the numbers. In the event the six clubs were placed in two groups of three, with there again being two group winners who would meet in a Final.

Football was changing, and it was a sign of the times that the pre-season build up was starting earlier and earlier each year. For the first time the competition started in July, and this would continue to be the case while the Lancashire Cup remained a pre-season competition.

The two group winners were Burnley and Bury, who had both won their home games and had both drawn their away games. Burnley had defeated Preston 5-1 to gain revenge for their defeat of the same score the previous season. Bury had defeated Rochdale 1-0, and by doing this had scored the only goal in the three games played in their qualifying group. With Bury's Gigg Lane ground undergoing building work and with them not yet having got a safety certificate, this home game was played at Radcliffe Borough's Stainton Park ground, but the unfamiliar surroundings attracted a crowd of just 320.



In the Final played at Burnley's Turf Moor ground, the two teams played out a 2-2 draw, with home goalkeeper David Williams emerging the hero by making an important penalty save to keep Burnley in the game. Incredibly this meant that five of the seven games played in the 1992-93 competition had resulted in draws. For the third time in 11 years the Lancashire Cup Final was decided on penalties, and it was perhaps inevitable that it would be home team Burnley who triumphed over the Shakers.

The Lancashire Cup was presented by Robert Reed of the Marsden Building Society. The Burnley captain was ex-Bury man Joe Jakub, who was playing in his fourth Lancashire Cup Final. He was now a three time winner, having previously played in two winning teams for his former club Bury.

1993-94

For the second Marsden Cup competition the number of clubs participating was restored to eight. Back in the competition after a one year break were Wigan Athletic, but also back in the fold were Premiership club Manchester United. It was the first time that they had played in the Lancashire Cup since 1973-74, the last season that it had been played as a straight knock-out competition.

Manchester United had entered the Lancashire Cup with the intent that they would not field anything like their strongest side. However there was a confidence that their reserve squad would more than hold their own against the Football League sides.

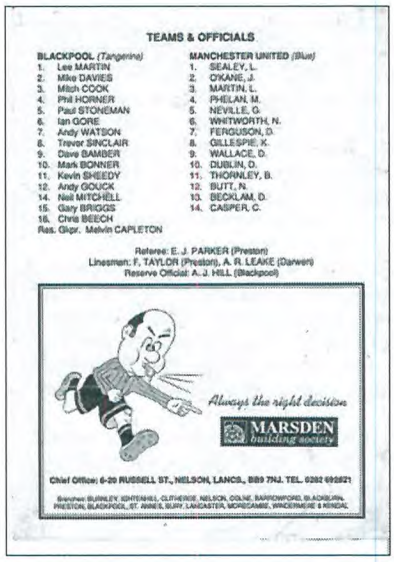
In the event Manchester United got off to a bad start, losing 3-1 at Preston North End in front of a good crowd of 6,694. It was said that they had fielded an understrength side. The rules for clubs playing in the Lancashire Cup stated that 'at least seven members of a team must have first team experience'. Despite this setback, Manchester United made a few changes and then went on to comfortably win their other two matches. This recovery was enough to ensure that they topped their group ahead of Preston on goal difference.

Blackpool were winners of the other group, and like Manchester United they had started with a defeat, but had then gone on to win their other two games. They clinched the top position with a 3-1 away win at Bolton. This win earned them a bonus point which placed them just one point ahead of the defeated Bolton Wanderers.

The Final was played at Bloomfield Road, and the visit of Manchester United attracted a crowd of 6,612, which was the highest for a Final since the 1970-71 season. On the day there was very little to choose between the two teams, with Blackpool winning the game with a Bryan Griffiths penalty scored midway through the second half.

Ian Gore was the only survivor from the Blackpool team which had been losing Finalists in the 1989-90 season. However they did have a previous cup winner in goalscorer Bryan Griffiths, who had also been successful when playing for Wigan Athletic in the 1991-92 season.

Manchester United may have played their reserve side in their Marsden Cup games, but there were several players who would go on to much greater things. Their young squad included Gary Neville, Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes, and David Beckham, who would all distinguish themselves as England players.



The team page from the 1993-94 final; note the misspelling of David Beckham!

1994-95

The 1994-95 competition saw one important change in the clubs taking part. For the first time in the Lancashire Cup's long history the name of Bolton Wanderers was missing. They had played in the first ever Lancashire Cup competition in the 1879-80 season, and had been involved in some way on all 103 occasions that the cup had subsequently been contested.

Taking over Bolton's place were Southport, who were now playing in the GM Vauxhall Conference. Although they were former Lancashire Cup winners, it was the first time that a non-league club had been invited to take part in the competition since the 1973-74 season.

Southport's first game back in the competition was a 4-1 home defeat to Blackpool, but following this they were able to rally to produce a 3-2 victory over Wigan Athletic, the club which had replaced them in the Football League. Reigning Marsden Cup holders Blackpool were to be the outstanding team in the group and were unbeaten in their three games. They finished with 8 points, which was twice the number of their next nearest challenger.

The other group winners were Bury. They had finished top of their group with the same points total as Rochdale, but with a superior goals scored record. Bury had produced two fine victories, a 2-1 win at Burnley, and a 4-0 home win over Manchester United. In their other game they had been defeated at Rochdale, who again could count themselves most unfortunate not to have won through to a Final.

For the second year running the Final was played at Bloomfield Road, and for the second year running it was Blackpool who were 1-0 winners. Just to complete the correlation between the two seasons it was again Bryan Griffiths who was the goalscorer. It was reported that the Final had been a poor game, with local newspapers making the hopeful comment that 'things could only get better' that season.

There were several Blackpool players who already had experience as Lancashire Cup winners. In their team were two players who were playing in their third Lancashire Cup winning side. Phil Brown had previously twice been a Lancashire Cup winner with Bolton Wanderers, while Bryan Griffiths had previously been a Lancashire Cup winner with both Wigan Athletic and Blackpool. In goal for the Seasiders was Les Sealey, who had played for Manchester United against Blackpool in the 1993-94 Final.

1995-96

The Marsden Building Society extended their sponsorship of the Lancashire Cup following on from the initial three year deal which had been agreed in 1992. Unfortunately the 1995-96 Marsden Cup was to be another competition with reduced numbers, with both Bury and Manchester United not taking part. In actual fact Bury did offer to enter a squad team, but this was not acceptable to the Lancashire FA. With no replacements being found, the participants for 1995-96 were the six other teams who had taken part in the competition the previous season.

As in the 1992-93 season the competition was organised with the participants being placed in two groups of three teams. The group winners were Wigan Athletic and Blackpool. Both teams had been easy winners of their groups, having each won both their games. Wigan had produced the best result of the group stages, having won 3-0 away at Burnley.

For the third year running the Final was played at Bloomfield Road, and for the third successive year it was Blackpool who were the Lancashire Cup winners. The Final itself was a 2-2 draw, with Blackpool twice coming back after being a goal behind. The game went to penalties, with Blackpool missing their first spot kick before coming back to triumph in front of their home supporters. It was the seventh time that Blackpool had been Lancashire Cup winners, and following in the footsteps of Blackburn Rovers and Burnley they were only the third team to have won the cup in three successive seasons.

Blackpool were captained by Phil Brown, who was playing in his fourth Lancashire Cup winning side, having now had two successes each with both Bolton Wanderers and Blackpool. Mark Bonner was the only player to have actually played in all three of Blackpool's Marsden Cup winning sides, but Andy Gouck, Lee Martin, and James Quinn were others who could claim to have had some involvement in all three Finals for the Seasiders, having each had to sit out at least one of these matches on the substitutes bench.

The Wigan side included the 'three amigos' Isidro Diaz, Roberto Martinez, and Jesus Seba. It had been big news when Wigan had signed the three Spanish born players during the 1995 close season, and with overseas players becoming more common in the English game outside the FA Premiership it was inevitable that there would be some playing in Lancashire Cup games. With this development it is interesting to recall that in its earliest days the Lancashire FA had been very strict on the residential and birth qualifications of players taking part in Lancashire Cup ties.

1996-97

The fifth playing of the Marsden Cup saw the competition continue with just six participating clubs. However there was again a change in the constituency of the clubs taking part, with Burnley following the growing trend of the long established clubs in choosing to opt out. From the very early days Burnley had been one of the mainstays of the Lancashire Cup, but like both Blackburn Rovers and Bolton Wanderers before them they were turning their back on a competition that they had participated in for over 100 seasons. The loss of Burnley must have been a big disappointment for sponsors Marsden Building Society, as they were the closest Football League club to their Nelson headquarters.

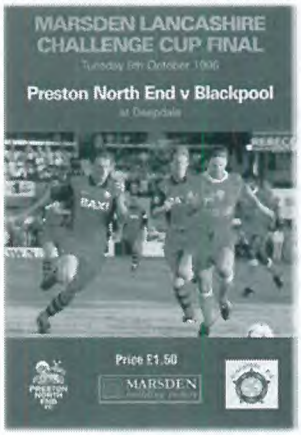
Coming in to replace Burnley were Morecambe, who like Southport were then playing their football in the GM Vauxhall Conference. It was the first time that Morecambe had played in the Lancashire Cup since they had been the defeated Finalists in the 1973-74 season.

The Lancashire FA had made overtures to get Manchester United back in the competition, but the request had been turned down. It was explained that United would be unable to put out a side containing seven players with first team experience, which was still the expectation. By making this decision Manchester United would be joining Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Bury, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester City, and Oldham Athletic, in opting out and like them they would be expected to contribute £1,000 to the Lancashire FA in lieu of them not participating.

The two group winners were Preston North End and Blackpool, with both teams reaching the Final by means of one win and one draw. In practice Blackpool had been severely tested by newcomers Morecambe in their first game. In a battle of the seaside towns the non-league side had created a 2-0 lead in the first half hour, only for Blackpool to come back and save their embarrassment by recording a 3-2 victory.

Having won the cup in each of the previous three seasons, this was the fourth consecutive year that Blackpool had reached the Final. In contrast Preston had been losing Finalists three times in the previous eight years, but had yet to win the competition since it had been revived in 1982-83.

Unfortunately on this occasion a place in the Final was not totally welcome, as the clubs knew they would struggle to find a suitable date in the two weeks before the league season started. The Lancashire FA accepted that the Final could be delayed, and it was eventually arranged as a night match in October. This was to be the first time that a Lancashire Cup game had been played other than as a pre-season warm up since the 1973-74 season. The game was played at Deepdale with Preston running out 2-1 winners against their traditional rivals.



It was only the sixth time that Preston North End had won the Lancashire Cup. Previously their most recent success had been as joint winners with Bolton Wanderers in 1938-39, but incredibly it was almost 100 years in the 1899-1900 season when they had last been outright winners.

In practice the 1996-97 competition had not been that great a success. Attendances had been low, with the six group matches producing an average well below 1,500. Regrettably the competition was definitely in decline, and with other options now open to clubs a local pre-season tournament was no longer considered to be the top priority as a preparation for the new season.

1997-98

The Lancashire Cup had been described as the cup that no one wanted, and it was correctly predicted in the Lancashire Evening Post newspaper that Preston North End would be unlikely to defend the trophy. Unfortunately Preston were not the only club to have lost interest. When the Lancashire FA circulated the member clubs about a 1997-98 competition it was found that only Rochdale and Wigan Athletic were actively in favour of participating. It was recognised that the competition needed a major re-vamp, and with this background feeling the Lancashire FA accepted that there would be no Marsden Cup competition held before the start of the 1997-98 season.

However with there not being a Lancashire Cup competition, the Lancashire FA had to send out a greater number of letters to clubs requesting that they be sent the appropriate exemption fee. In March 1997 it had been stated that the suggested contributions should be raised to £2,000 for FA Carling Premiership clubs, and to become £1,000, £500, and £250 respectively for clubs in the three divisions of Nationwide Football League. It would appear that a number of clubs were not prepared for this additional expense as they queried why it was necessary. In response the Lancashire FA pointed out that it was a Football Association regulation for clubs to participate in the FA Cup that they must also be participants in a knock-out competition run by their own county association.

The Lancashire FA continued to work at trying to organise a Lancashire Cup competition, and at one time a straight knock-out Final between Rochdale and Wigan Athletic looked to be a possible solution. Eventually a number of other clubs were involved in discussions, and a resumption of the competition became a reality.

1998-99

After being suspended for just one year the Lancashire Cup was back. For the sixth time it was staged as the Marsden Cup, with the Marsden Building Society once again assisting with the sponsorship. Unfortunately for the status of the tournament there was still a limited interest at club level, with just four teams choosing to participate.

Significantly the 1996-97 Marsden Cup Finalists Preston North End and Blackpool were both absentees, while non-leaguers Morecambe and Southport were also both missing. Rochdale and Wigan Athletic were the only survivors from when the cup had last been played for two years earlier. Joining them were Bury, who were back after a four year gap, and Oldham Athletic, who were playing in the competition for the first time since the 1982-83 season. During discussions it had been hoped that Burnley would participate, but this could not be arranged.

The Lancashire Cup was again a competition for Lancashire clubs playing at Football League level. However with not one of the four clubs actually located in the administrative county of Lancashire, this season the Lancashire Cup could really have been re-named the Greater Manchester Cup. It was still a pre-season tournament, but this time the four participants were placed in a straight knock-out competition. Effectively there would be two Semi-Finals played with the two winners meeting in a Final, while the two losers would meet in a play-off match for third and fourth places.

With the big teams missing it was inevitable that interest was limited, and that crowds would be low. Sadly the 1998-99 Marsden Cup competition was played with the majority of the other Lancashire clubs supporters probably not even being aware of its existence. The two Finalists were Wigan Athletic and Rochdale. Both had progressed through home wins, with Rochdale recording an impressive 4-0 victory over neighbours Oldham Athletic.

The Final was played at Springfield Park, and yet again home advantage was to be the key factor. Rochdale took the lead on 14 minutes, only for Wigan to equalise before half time from the penalty spot. In the second half Wigan added two more goals to record a comfortable victory.

At the same time that the Final was being played, the first ever 3rd place play-off match was also being played. This resulted in a 1-1 draw, with Bury triumphing over Oldham on penalties.

Wigan Athletic 1998-99

1999-2004

Following the relatively low key 1998-99 competition there were high hopes that something more substantial could be arranged for the 1999-2000 pre-season. Initially there did appear to be a much greater interest from the member clubs, but as the deadline date for definite decisions came nearer the position began to change. Several clubs indicated that they did not wish to participate, while others said that they wanted to participate but could not due to them having ongoing pitch improvements. By March 1999 it was clear that organising a successful tournament would be difficult, and shortly after this it was confirmed that the Lancashire Cup competition would again be suspended.

The Marsden Building Society had expressed an interest in continuing their sponsorship of the Lancashire Cup, but were now left without a competition. A solution was found with them transferring their sponsorship to the still thriving Lancashire Challenge Trophy, which from the 1999-2000 season became known as the Marsden Challenge Trophy.

Late in 1999 discussions began on the Lancashire Cup possibly becoming a competition for reserve sides, with Blackburn Rovers in particular supporting this option. In April 2000 a questionnaire was sent out to member clubs, but the response proved to be rather disappointing. In the following months it was once again suggested that Rochdale and Wigan Athletic should meet in a one-off knock-out Final for the Lancashire Cup as these were the two teams most interested in the competition continuing.

In September 2001 it was stated that the competition was now defunct due to a lack of interest. However there continued to be occasional discussions on the possibility of the Lancashire Cup becoming a reserve competition. It had not gone unnoticed that the Manchester Senior Cup was going through a period of revival, while the Lancashire FA had been unable to persuade these same clubs to participate in a Lancashire competition.

With no Lancashire Cup games being played, the Lancashire FA were once again collecting a full complement of exemption fees from the member clubs. In the financial year 1999-2000 they received a total of £10,500, while in the year 2003-04 it was reported that a total of £14,125 had been received for exemptions.

Consideration had been given to there being a pre-season 2003-04 Lancashire Cup competition, and later the Lancashire-based FA Barclaycard Premiership, Nationwide Football League, and Nationwide Conference clubs were all contacted to determine their interest in some kind of competition. It was a slow process, but eventually there was an agreement that the Lancashire Cup competition be revived for the 2004-05 season.

2004-05

After a gap of six years, the Lancashire Cup trophy was once again dusted down and brought out of storage. The 2004-05 competition did not have any overall sponsorship, and was again played as the Lancashire Senior Cup.

There were eight clubs taking part, and strangely it was exactly the same eight clubs who had been involved when the competition had been revived for the 1982-83 season. On the face of it the competing clubs were strong. Blackburn Rovers and Bolton Wanderers were now Premiership clubs, while Burnley and Preston North End were playing in the newly named Football League Championship division. Manchester United were also said to have shown an interest, and although not playing this time they had intimated that they would enter a team for the 2005-06 season.

The First Round draw was made in the 2004 close season. This time it was to be a straight knock-out competition for the eight clubs taking part. For the first time since 1973-74 it was not solely a pre-season competition, although clubs were informed that they had the option to play their opening ties as a preparation for the new season.

Sadly the old competition was not always treated with the greatest respect. In practice the league status of the clubs had been largely irrelevant, with the 2004-05 Lancashire Cup being looked upon as a competition for reserve sides.

Although only 7 matches were played they were to span almost the entire length of the season. The first game was played on August 16th with Bolton Wanderers defeating Preston North End in a penalty shoot out after the match had ended in a 2-2 draw. As it was effectively re-launching the Lancashire Cup, it was perhaps appropriate that this game should be played at the Lancashire FA's new headquarters in Leyland. The former Leyland Motors ground had become the adopted home for the Bolton Wanderers reserve side, even though it was actually much nearer to Preston geographically.

Burnley, a club who had treated the competition seriously in the 1950s and 1960s, made the strange decision to play their First Round game behind closed doors. In reality crowds at some of the other games were probably not really that much higher.

The two Finalists were Bury and Rochdale. Oddly Bury had reached the Final without actually winning a game in normal play. Both their ties had been drawn games, with Bury winning through each time on penalties. In contrast Rochdale had performed well in the competition, winning away ties at both Burnley and Bolton.

After previously having been postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, the Final was eventually played at Rochdale's Spotland ground on the Monday after the league season had completed. With both clubs fielding very youthful inexperienced sides, the attendance was only 503, which was the lowest ever for a Lancashire Cup Final. However technology had moved on since the competition had last been played, and on this occasion a commentary was broadcasted live on the internet on the Rochdale and Bury official websites.

Keeping to the modern tradition, it was the home team that was again victorious with Rochdale's Clive Moyo-Modise scoring the only goal of the game. On the day Rochdale had fielded a side comprised entirely of juniors, with only one player in their starting eleven who had any first team experience.

This was the third time that Rochdale had been Lancashire Cup winners. It was perhaps fitting that Rochdale should be successful as over the years they had probably been the club which had shown the greatest commitment to the competition. They had participated in it in every season that the Lancashire Cup had been played since they became a Football League club in the 1921-22 season, and they were the only club to have entered each competition over this period.

2005-06

Despite the 2004-05 competition having been a relatively low key affair, it was decided that there should again be a Lancashire Cup contested for in 2005-06. Once again there were eight teams involved, and once again the competition was played as a straight knock-out tournament with no extra time to be played and no replays.

This season there was one change in the make-up of competing teams. As had been intimated the previous season, Manchester United had agreed to again take up a place in the competition. It was their first appearance in the Lancashire Cup since 1994-95, when they had played two seasons when the competition had been known as the Marsden Cup. Dropping out were Burnley, who after Bolton Wanderers were the club to have played the most seasons overall in the Lancashire Cup.

Before the First Round Draw was made, the Lancashire FA were able to make the claim that there were three Premiership teams among the Lancashire Cup participants. However, as had been the case the previous season, the Lancashire Cup was now effectively a competition for Premiership and Football League club's reserve sides. Officially the competition rules stated that the participating club's must name 16-man squads for their ties, which included at least five players who had first team experience.

FINAL TIE

OLDHAM ATHLETIC F.C.

v.

PRESTON NORTH END F.C.

The competition was played out to a similar timescale as in 2004-05. The First Round games were spread over the first half of the season, with the Semi-Finals and Final to be contested in the new year. In the First Round, the pick of the games was a Preston North End versus Blackpool tie. At this time it was a rare meeting for the two local rivals, with home team Preston fielding a particularly strong side, and being rewarded with a 3-1 victory to put them into the Semi-Finals.

The Semi-Final between Oldham Athletic and Bury was played with spectators being allowed free admittance. Fortunately the days when the Lancashire FA were dependent on the gate receipts were long gone.

The two Finalists were Oldham Athletic and Preston North End. At first it was announced that the Final would be played towards the end of the season, but subsequently it was decided that it be carried over to be played in pre-season before the start of 2006-07. Reviving an old tradition, the Final was played on a neutral ground, the Lancashire FA headquarters at Leyland.

Although an evening kick-off, the game was played while Lancashire was in the middle of a rare heatwave. Instead of halves, the game was effectively played in quarters, with a lengthy break being taken mid-way through each half to allow the players some time to recover and take on water. Over the 90 minutes the two teams were evenly matched, with the game producing a 0-0 stalemate. Continuing into the penalty shoot-out it was still difficult to find a winner, but in the end it was Oldham goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi who emerged the hero, pulling off a great save before he himself converted the deciding spot kick to make Oldham the 7-6 winners on penalties.

Victors Oldham had fielded their strongest squad, with almost the same team representing them 10 days later when they played their first league game of the season. Preston had fielded a mixture of first teamers and reserves. Their goalkeeper was Chris Neal, who had just returned from a short spell as a trialist with the Latics. Strangely the match programme listed him twice - as the Preston goalkeeper, and also as one of the Oldham substitutes.

2006-07

This season saw a familiar name back amongst the entrants, with Accrington Stanley again playing in the Lancashire Cup after a gap of 45 years. Following the demise of the original Accrington Stanley, a new club had been formed in 1968 to keep the famous old name going. For many years they were only moderately successful in non-league football, but in the early 2000s their fortunes had improved dramatically. In 2002-03 they were Unibond Northern Premier League Champions to earn themselves a promotion to the Nationwide Football Conference, and in 2005-06 they were the runaway Conference Champions to complete an emotional return to the Football League.

The acceptance of Accrington meant that there were now nine clubs in the competition. This was an awkward number which was overcome by there being a Preliminary Round of one match to reduce the numbers so that there could be a First Round involving eight teams.

The Preliminary Round tie paired the previous season's losing Finalists Preston North End with Manchester United. At half time the teams were drawing 1-1, but any hopes for Preston of a second successive Final appearance were to be short-lived, with United producing a remarkable second half performance on their opponents ground to win 7-2.

Despite this success, Manchester United were themselves to be the next team eliminated, being defeated away to Bolton Wanderers in a close match. Another First Round tie saw Oldham Athletic in a determined mood to retain possession of the trophy, with them winning 7-1 at Bury.

The Semi-Final ties were both played toward the end of the season, and both were played on grounds that were unfamiliar surroundings for Lancashire Cup ties. The Oldham Athletic v. Blackburn Rovers game was played on Stalybridge Celtic's Bower Field ground. Although at this time it was home to Oldham's reserve side, it was a ground that was outside the county boundary and a ground that had hosted Stalybridge Celtic's few Lancashire Cup ties in the 1920s. The Accrington Stanley v. Bolton Wanderers game was played on Clitheroe's Shawbridge ground. This was a ground that was being used because Accrington's Fraser Eagle Stadium was unavailable due to a pitch renovation, and was actually the first Lancashire Cup tie to be played in the town of Clitheroe since the 1890s.

The two Finalists were Blackburn Rovers and Bolton Wanderers, and as in the previous year the Final was played as a pre-season attraction at the Lancashire FA's County Ground headquarters. Both Premiership clubs chose to field young reserve sides, and there were few players on display who had much first team experience. After so many recent Finals that had been dour matches, the game itself proved to be most entertaining with both sides attempting to play good attacking football. At half time the score was 2-2, but after the break Blackburn Rovers took control and ran out convincing 6-2 winners. It was a great team performance, although ex-Carlisle United loan player Joe Garner took the honours with a hat trick of goals. Unfortunately the attendance was just 189, which will go down as the lowest ever crowd for a Lancashire Cup Final.

It was the 17th occasion that Blackburn Rovers had been Lancashire Cup winners, and it was a win that placed them five wins ahead of both Bolton Wanderers and Burnley, jointly the next most successful clubs. Although the Final was played at the County Ground, this was actually the Bolton Wanderers reserve teams normal home ground, which meant that Blackburn could claim to have been the first away side to have been victorious since they themselves had last been cup winners in the 1989-90 season. Strangely the 2006-07 Lancashire Cup competition had been particularly good for away teams, with seven of the eight ties played being won by the visitors.

Blackburn Rovers 2006-07

2007-08

The 2007-08 competition was officially launched on September 14th with a broadcast on BBC Radio Lancashire and there were some important developments. It was announced that the Lancashire Cup was once again a sponsored competition, hence-forth becoming known as the Lancashire FA Canterbury Senior Cup. The new sponsors Canterbury are a New Zealand based sports-wear company who have agreed to support the Lancashire Cup for an initial two-year period with an option that this subsequently be extended.

There was again an increase in the number of competitors. The nine that had played in the 2006-07 season were joined by three clubs making a return - Liverpool, Morecambe, and Wigan Athletic.

CANTERBURY OF NEW ZEALAND

Liverpool were back in the competition for the first time since the 1973-74 season. For over 40 years they had been one of the country's leading clubs and there could be no doubting that their involvement gave the Lancashire Cup a greater prestige.

Morecambe, as a non-league club, had played in the Lancashire Cup on nine occasions between 1963-64 and 1996-97, and most notably they had been both Winners and Finalists in the competition. Having gained promotion from the Nationwide Conference via the 2006-07 end of season Play-Offs they were now members of the Coca-Cola Football League and for the first time were eligible to play in the Lancashire Cup as a fully fledged 'senior' club.

Wigan Athletic were in their third season as members of the Barclays Premier League, yet in the 1970s they had been a non-league club playing alongside Morecambe in the Northern Premier League. Their most recent appearance in the Lancashire Cup had been in 1998-99 when they had been the winners.

With 12 clubs participating, this meant that Burnley, Everton, and Manchester City were now the only senior Lancashire clubs still opting to sit out the competition.

NOTE ON THE RESULTS PAGES

In the following pages,

+ denotes games that were replays.
++ denotes games that were void.

CLUBS PLAYING IN THE LANCASHIRE CUP

CLUB	TOTAL SEASONS	SEASONS	COMMENTS
Abbey Village	2	1881-82; 1883-84.	
Accrington	16	1879-80 to 1895-96.	1884-85: scratched without playing a game. 1886-87: scratched.
Accrington Borough	2	1881-82 to 1882-83.	
Accrington Grasshoppers	1	1884-85.	
Accrington Stanley	52	1902-03 to 1914-15; 1921-22 to 1939-40; 1944-45 to 1961-62; 2006-07 to 2007-08.	1961-62: scratched.
Accrington Wanderers	1	1881-82.	
Adlington	3	1882-83 to 1884-85.	
Ardwick		(see Manchester City)	
Ashton North End	2	1895-96 to 1896-97.	
Astley Bridge	10	1879-80 to 1888-89.	1885-86: expelled.
Atherton	3	1906-07 to 1908-09.	
Back o'th' Bank	2	1881-82 to 1882-83.	
Bacup	7	1894-95 to 1897-98; 1903-04 to 1904-05; 1911-12.	
Bamber Bridge	1	1884-85.	
Barnes Rovers	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Barrow (1)	1	1893-94.	
Barrow (2)	57	1901-02 to 1904-05; 1906-07 to 1907-08; 1911-12 to 1914-15; 1921-22 to 1939-40; 1945-46 to 1972-73.	1914-15: scratched without playing a game.
Barrow Rangers	2	1880-81 to 1881-82.	1880-81: scratched without playing a game.
Barrow-in-Furness	1	1882-83.	1882-83: scratched without playing a game.
Baxenden	2	1884-85 to 1885-86.	
Bells Temperance	2	1884-85; 1887-88.	
Belmont	1	1883-84.	
Black Lane Temperance	2	1903-04 to 1904-05.	
Blackburn Christ Church	2	1879-80 to 1880-81.	
Blackburn Law	2	1881-82 to 1882-83.	
Blackburn Olympic	9	1880-81 to 1888-89.	1882-83: expelled.
Blackburn Parish Church	1	1883-84.	
Blackburn Park Road	11	1879-80 to 1889-90.	
Blackburn Perseverance	2	1880-81 to 1881-82.	
Blackburn Rising Sun	2	1879-80 to 1880-81.	
Blackburn Rovers	106	1879-80 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74; 1982-83 to 1991-92; 2004-05 to 2007-08.	1880-81: expelled. 1919-20, 1920-21, 1922-23: played only in Football League qualifying games.
Blackburn St Andrews	1	1879-80.	
Blackburn St Georges	1	1879-80.	
Blackburn St Marks		(see Witton)	
Blackburn West End	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Blackpool (1)	5	1880-81 to 1884-85.	
Blackpool (2)	99	1891-92 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74; 1982-83 to 1996-97; 2004-05 to 2007-08.	1920-21, 1921-22: played only in Football League qualifying games. 1942-43, 1943-44: scratched without playing a game.
Blackpool Services	2	1942-43 to 1943-44.	
Blackpool St Johns	3	1883-84 to 1885-86.	
Bolton All Saints	6	1879-80 to 1884-85.	
Bolton Association	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Bolton Emmanuel	1	1879-80.	
Bolton Hornets	3	1879-80 to 1881-82.	
Bolton North End	1	1879-80.	
Bolton Olympic	5	1879-80 to 1883-84.	
Bolton Rovers	1	1879-80.	
Bolton St Pauls	1	1879-80.	

CLUBS PLAYING IN THE LANCASHIRE CUP (continued)

CLUB	TOTAL SEASONS	SEASONS	COMMENTS
Bolton Wanderers	108	1879-80 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74; 1982-83 to 1993-94; 2004-05 to 2007-08.	1884-85: expelled. 1919-20, 1922-23: played only in Football League qualifying games.
Bootle	13	1880-81 to 1892-93.	1887-88: scratched without playing a game.
Bradshaw	5	1880-81 to 1884-85.	
Breightmet	1	1884-85.	
Brierfield	3	1882-83 to 1884-85.	
Brinscall	3	1880-81 to 1882-83.	
Burnley	104	1882-83 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74; 1982-83 to 1995-96; 2004-05.	1885-86: scratched without playing a game. 1921-22, 1922-23: played only in Football League qualifying games.
Burnley Olympic	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Burnley Ramblers	3	1883-84 to 1885-86.	
Burnley Union Star	7	1884-85 to 1890-91.	1886-87: expelled.
Burnley Wanderers	2	1884-85 to 1885-86.	
Burscough	1	1882-83.	
Bury	98	1891-92 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74; 1982-83 to 1994-95; 1998-99; 2004-05 to 2007-08.	1919-20: played only in Football League qualifying games.
Cherry Tree	4	1884-85 to 1887-88.	
Chester	27	1939-40 to 1965-66.	
Chorley	29	1883-84 to 1884-85; 1894-95 to 1904-05; 1907-08; 1909-10 to 1911-12; 1914-15; 1934-35 to 1935-36; 1964-65 to 1965-66; 1967-68 to 1973-74.	
Church	9	1879-80 to 1887-88.	1883-84: expelled.
Clitheroe	10	1880-81 to 1885-86; 1894-95 to 1897-98.	
Clitheroe Olympic	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Clitheroe Wanderers	2	1882-83 to 1883-84.	
Cloughfold	1	1879-80.	
Cob Wall	1	1879-80.	
Colne	8	1903-04 to 1904-05; 1906-07; 1908-09 to 1912-13.	
Cox Green	2	1880-81 to 1881-82.	
Crewe Alexandra	4	1942-43 to 1945-46.	
Croston	1	1883-84.	
Darcy Lever	3	1882-83 to 1884-85.	
Darwen	30	1879-80 to 1900-01; 1903-04 to 1908-09; 1934-35 to 1935-36.	1880-81: expelled. 1881-82: scratched without playing a game.
Darwen Grasshoppers	1	1879-80.	
Darwen Hibernians	4	1882-83 to 1885-86.	
Darwen Old Wanderers	7	1882-83 to 1888-89.	
Darwen Ramblers	5	1881-82 to 1885-86.	1884-85: expelled.
Darwen Rangers	1	1879-80.	
Darwen Rovers	1	1884-85.	
Darwen Saxons	1	1882-83.	
Darwen St James	1	1879-80.	
Darwen St Johns	3	1881-82 to 1883-84.	
Eagley	7	1879-80 to 1885-86.	
Earlestown	9	1881-82 to 1885-86; 1901-02 to 1902-03; 1904-05; 1907-08.	
Eccles	2	1884-85 to 1885-86.	
Eccles Borough	3	1912-13 to 1914-15.	
Edgworth	2	1879-80; 1882-83.	

CLUBS PLAYING IN THE LANCASHIRE CUP (continued)

CLUB	TOTAL SEASONS	SEASONS	COMMENTS
Egerton	1	1882-83.	
Enfield	5	1879-80 to 1883-84.	
Everton	86	1880-81 to 1882-83; 1887-88 to 1897-98; 1899-00 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74.	1919-20 to 1922-23: played only in Football League qualifying games. 1941-42: scratched.
Fairfield	6	1892-93 to 1897-98.	1897-98: scratched without playing a game.
Farnworth	3	1881-82 to 1883-84.	
Fishwick Ramblers	4	1883-84 to 1886-87.	
Fleetwood	3	1913-14 to 1914-15; 1935-36.	
Fleetwood Rangers	8	1884-85; 1892-93 to 1898-99.	
Gillibrand Rangers	1	1884-85.	
Gilnow Rangers	3	1881-82 to 1883-84.	
Glossop	2	1902-03; 1904-05.	1904-05: scratched without playing a game.
Golborne	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Great Harwood	9	1880-81 to 1885-86; 1969-70 to 1970-71; 1972-73.	
Great Lever	9	1879-80 to 1887-88.	1885-86, 1887-88: scratched without playing a game. 1886-87: scratched.
Great Marton	3	1882-83 to 1884-85.	
Greenheys	3	1883-84 to 1885-86.	
Greenwoods Millers	3	1882-83 to 1884-85.	
Halliwell	12	1879-80 to 1890-91.	
Halliwell Jubilee	2	1879-80; 1884-85.	1884-85: expelled.
Halliwell Rovers	3	1896-97 to 1898-99.	
Hapton	1	1884-85.	
Harwood	1	1883-84.	
Haslingden	3	(as Haslingden Association) 1879-80; (as Haslingden) 1882-83; 1913-14.	
Haslingden Association		(see Haslingden)	
Haslingden Church Institute	1	1884-85	
Haslingden Grane	2	1879-80 to 1880-81.	1879-80: expelled.
Haydock	8	1885-86 to 1890-91; 1900-01 to 1901-02.	1900-01: scratched without playing a game.
Haydock Temperance	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Heapey Institute	1	1884-85.	
Heywood	3	1884-85; 1903-04 to 1904-05.	1904-05: scratched without playing a game.
Heywood Central	4	1891-92 to 1894-95.	
Heywood Rovers	1	1884-85.	
Heywood United	1	1914-15.	
Higher Walton	11	1883-84 to 1893-94.	
Horwich	3	1884-85; 1897-98 to 1898-99.	
Horwich RMI	1	1934-35.	
Hurst	10	1881-82 to 1890-91.	1886-87: scratched without playing a game.
Hurst Clarence	3	1882-83 to 1884-85.	
Hurst Park Road	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Irwell Springs	11	1880-81 to 1890-91.	
Kearsley	1	1884-85.	
Kirkham	4	1881-82 to 1884-85.	
Lancaster Town	2	1934-35 to 1935-36.	
Leigh	1	1884-85	
Levenshulme	1	1884-85	
Little Hulton	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Liverpool (1)	3	1880-81 to 1882-83.	

CLUBS PLAYING IN THE LANCASHIRE CUP (continued)

CLUB	TOTAL SEASONS	SEASONS	COMMENTS
Liverpool (2)	80	1892-93 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74; 2007-08.	1920-21, 1921-22: played only in Football League qualifying games. 1944-45: scratched.
Liverpool Caledonians	1	1892-93.	
Liverpool Ramblers	4	1882-83 to 1885-86.	1882-83, 1884-85: scratched without playing a game.
Liverpool South End	1	1896-97.	
Liverpool St Peters	2	1881-82 to 1882-83.	
Liverpool Stanley	1	1882-83.	
Livesey Grasshoppers	1	1882-83.	1882-83: expelled.
Livesey United	1	1879-80.	
Lostock Hall	2	1884-85 to 1885-86.	
Loveclough	6	1881-82; 1883-84 to 1887-88.	
Low Moor	6	1881-82 to 1886-87.	
Lower Chapel	2	1879-80 to 1880-81.	
Lower Darwen	9	1879-80 to 1887-88.	
Lowerhouse	2	1884-85 to 1885-86.	
Lynwood	1	1879-80.	
Lytham	3	1882-83 to 1884-85.	
Manchester	11	(as Manchester Wanderers) 1879-80 to 1882-83; (as Manchester) 1883-84 to 1889-90.	1880-81: scratched without playing a game.
Manchester City	80	(as Ardwick) 1891-92 to 1893-94; (as Manchester City) 1894-95 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74.	1919-20: played only in Football League qualifying games. 1939-40, 1942-43, 1943-44: scratched without playing a game.
Manchester United	88	(as Newton Heath) 1883-84 to 1884-85; 1890-91 to 1901-02; (as Manchester United) 1902-03 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74; 1993-94 to 1994-95; 2005-06 to 2007-08.	1920-21, 1921-22: played only in Football League qualifying games. 1939-40, 1944-45: scratched without playing a game.
Manchester Wanderers		(see Manchester)	
Middleton	7	1879-80 to 1882-83; 1897-98 to 1899-00.	
Morecambe	10	1963-64; 1966-67 to 1970-71; 1972-73 to 1973-74; 1996-97; 2007-08.	
Myrtle Grove		(see Rossendale)	
Nelson	33	1883-84 to 1884-85; 1892-93 to 1898-99; 1900-01 to 1906-07; 1908-09 to 1914-15; 1921-22 to 1930-31.	
Netherfield	4	1967-68 to 1970-71.	
New Brighton	18	1923-24 to 1940-41.	
Newton Heath		(see Manchester United)	
Northern Nomads	1	1906-07.	
Num Nook	1	1880-81.	
Old Blackburnians	1	1882-83.	
Oldham Athletic	71	1906-07 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1973-74; 1982-83; 1998-99; 2004-05 to 2007-08.	1919-20 to 1922-23: played only in Football League qualifying games.
Oswaldtwistle Hibernians	1	1884-85.	
Oswaldtwistle Rovers	4	1883-84 to 1884-85; 1903-04 to 1904-05.	
Oswaldtwistle St Pauls	3	1881-82 to 1883-84.	
Padiham	13	1879-80 to 1889-90; 1903-04 to 1904-05.	

CLUBS PLAYING IN THE LANCASHIRE CUP (continued)

CLUB	TOTAL SEASONS	SEASONS	COMMENTS
Padiham Church	2	(as Padiham St Leonards) 1881-82; (as Padiham Church) 1882-83.	
Padiham St Leonards		(see Padiham Church)	
Peel Bank Rovers	4	1882-83 to 1885-86.	
Peel Park	2	1883-84 to 1884-85.	
Port Vale	1	1918-19.	
Preston North End	102	1880-81 to 1887-88; 1890-91 to 1914-15; 1918-19 to 1939-40; 1946-47 to 1973-74; 1982-83 to 1996-97; 2004-05 to 2007-08.	1885-86, 1887-88: scratched. 1919-20 to 1921-22: played only in Football League qualifying games. 1939-40: scratched without playing a game.
Preston Perseverance	1	1884-85.	
Preston St Saviours	1	1883-84.	1883-84: scratched.
Preston Swifts	2	1884-85 to 1885-86.	1884-85: expelled.
Preston Zingari	1	1884-85.	
Rawtenstall	8	1882-83 to 1889-90.	
Ribchester	1	1884-85.	
Rishton	6	1880-81 to 1885-86.	
Rochdale (1)	4	1897-98 to 1900-01.	
Rochdale (2)	79	1910-11 to 1914-15; 1918-19; 1921-22 to 1973-74; 1982-83 to 1996-97; 1998-99; 2004-05 to 2007-08.	
Rochdale Town	2	1901-02 to 1902-03.	
Rossendale	18	(as Myrtle Grove) 1880-81; (as Rossendale) 1881-82 to 1897-98.	1884-85: scratched. 1897-98: scratched without playing a game.
Rossendale United	9	1903-04 to 1908-09; 1912-13; 1934-35 to 1935-36.	
School Lane	2	1884-85 to 1885-86.	
Scout Bottom Blue Ribbon	1	1884-85.	
Skelmersdale United	1	1903-04.	
South Liverpool	2	1913-14 to 1914-15.	
South Shore	19	1881-82 to 1899-00.	
Southport (1)	4	1882-83 to 1885-86.	
Southport (2)	80	(as Southport Central) 1892-93 to 1914-15; (as Southport Vulcan) 1918-19; (as Southport) 1921-22 to 1973-74; 1994-95 to 1996-97.	
Southport Central		(see Southport (2))	
Southport Vulcan		(see Southport (2))	
Spring Hill	1	1884-85.	
Springfield	1	1884-85.	
St Helens Recreation	10	1902-03 to 1903-04; 1905-06 to 1912-13.	
St Helens Town	8	1901-02 to 1904-05; 1909-10; 1911-12 to 1913-14.	1902-03: scratched.
Stacksteads Working Men	3	1881-82 to 1883-84.	
Stalybridge Celtic	2	1921-22 to 1922-23.	
Stalybridge Rovers	8	1895-96; 1897-98 to 1898-99; 1900-01 to 1903-04; 1906-07.	1898-99: scratched without playing a game.
Star of England	3	1880-81 to 1882-83.	
Stars & Stripes	1	1881-82.	

CLUBS PLAYING IN THE LANCASHIRE CUP (continued)

CLUB	TOTAL SEASONS	SEASONS	COMMENTS
Stockport County	16	1894-95 to 1896-97; 1898-99; 1918-19 to 1925-26; 1941-42 to 1944-45.	1919-20, 1920-21: played only in Football League qualifying games. 1941-42: scratched without playing a game.
Stoke	1	1918-19.	
Tonge	3	1883-84 to 1885-86.	
Tranmere Rovers	2	1922-23 to 1923-24.	
Turton	12	1879-80 to 1889-90; 1903-04.	1886-87: expelled.
Water	1	1881-82.	
West Manchester	5	1892-93 to 1896-97.	
Westhoughton	5	1880-81 to 1884-85.	1884-85: expelled.
Wheelton	3	1882-83 to 1884-85.	
White Star Wanderers	4	1899-00 to 1902-03.	
Wigan	4	1884-85 to 1887-88.	1885-86: expelled.
Wigan Athletic	25	1934-35 to 1935-36; 1966-67 to 1973-74; 1983-84 to 1991-92; 1993-94 to 1996-97; 1998-99; 2007-08.	
Wigan Borough	11	1921-22 to 1931-32.	
Wigan County	3	1897-98 to 1899-00.	
Wigan United	1	1901-02.	
Willows Rovers	1	1883-84.	
Withnell	2	1882-83; 1884-85.	
Witton	14	(as Blackburn St Marks) 1879-80; (as Witton) 1880-81 to 1892-93.	1892-93: scratched without playing a game.
Wrexham	2	1940-41; 1945-46.	

1879-80			Number of entrants: 40.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Oct 18	Accrington v. Halliwell	4-1	
2	Sat	Oct 11	Astley Bridge v. Blackburn Rising Sun	6-0	
3	Sat	Oct 4	Blackburn Christ Church v. Bolton Hornets	8-0	
4	Sat	Sep 27	Blackburn Park Road v. Bolton Emmanuel	6-0	
5	Sat	Oct 18	Blackburn St Marks v. Bolton St Pauls	0-0	
	Sat	Oct 25	+ Bolton St Pauls v. Blackburn St Marks	1-4	
6	Sat	Sep 27	Bolton North End v. Turton	1-9	
7	Sat	Oct 25	Bolton Rovers v. Eagley	2-5	
8	Sat	Oct 11	Bolton Wanderers v. Bolton All Saints	5-2	
9	Sat	Oct 4	Church v. Blackburn St Andrews	4-0	
10	Sat	Oct 4	Cloughfold v. Great Lever	4-5	
11	Sat	Oct 11	Cob Wall v. Manchester Wanderers	0-3	
12	Sat	Sep 27	Darwen v. Darwen Grasshoppers	7-0	
13	Sat	Oct 11	Enfield v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	
	Thu	Oct 23	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Enfield	5-1	
14	Sat	Oct 11	Halliwell Jubilee v. Livesey United	0-9	
15	Sat	Oct 18	Haslingden Grane v. Darwen Foresters	1-1	
			+ Darwen Foresters - w/o.		Haslingden Grane expelled.
16	Sat	Oct 25	Lower Chapel v. Blackburn St Georges	4-2	
17	Sat	Oct 11	Lower Darwen v. Darwen Rangers	3-1	
18	Sat	Oct 4	Lynwood v. Bolton Olympic	5-4	
19	Sat	Oct 25	Middleton v. Edgworth	1-6	
20	Sat	Sep 20	Padiham v. Haslingden Association	1-2	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Nov 22	Accrington v. Blackburn St Marks	3-0	
2	Sat	Dec 6	Astley Bridge v. Blackburn Christ Church	2-1	
3	Sat	Nov 29	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	4-0	
4	Sat	Nov 29	Church v. Manchester Wanderers	2-6	
5	Sat	Oct 25	Darwen v. Haslingden Association	12-1	
6	Sat	Dec 6	Darwen Foresters v. Blackburn Park Road	0-2	
7	Sat	Nov 8	Eagley v. Edgworth	4-1	
8	Sat	Nov 29	Great Lever v. Turton	0-3	
9	Sat	Nov 1	++ Lower Chapel v. Lynwood	4-3	result later declared void.
	Sat	Dec 20	Lower Chapel v. Lynwood	3-1	
10	Sat	Nov 29	Lower Darwen v. Livesey United	3-0	
Round 3					
1	Thu	Jan 1	Accrington v. Lower Darwen	4-1	
2	Sat	Jan 10	Blackburn Rovers v. Turton	2-0	
3	Sat	Jan 10	Darwen v. Astley Bridge	5-0	
4	Sat	Jan 17	Lower Chapel v. Eagley	8-2	
5	Sat	Jan 10	Manchester Wdrs v. Blackburn Park Road	2-0	
Round 4					
1	Sat	Feb 7	Accrington v. Lower Chapel	4-3	
2	Sat	Feb 21	Darwen v. Manchester Wanderers	11-1	
			Blackburn Rovers - bye.		
Semi-Final					
1	Sat	Mar 6	Blackburn Rovers v. Accrington	3-1	
			Darwen - bye.		
Final					
Sat, Mar 20, at Barley Bank, Darwen.					
Darwen		3	(Bury, Gledhill, Marshall)		
Blackburn Rovers		0			
Darwen		Broughton; Duxbury, Suter; Fish, Moorhouse; Marshall, Rostron; Gledhill, Holden; Bury, R Kirkham.			
Blackburn Rovers		Howorth; Greenwood, A Birtwistle; FW Hargeaves, Latham; Duckworth, Hanson; Brown, Hindle; J Hargreaves, R Birtwistle.			
Referee		CJ Spencer, of Nottingham Forest FC.			
Umpires		JN Abraham, of the Cheshire FA; and RE Lythgoe, of the Birkenhead FA.			
Attendance		9,000 (receipts £167).			

1880-81			Number of entrants: 43.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Oct 23	Accrington v. Astley Bridge	3-1	
2	Sat	Nov 20	Blackburn Park Road v. Blackpool	3-2	
3	Sat	Nov 6	Blackburn Rovers v. Bradshaw	6-0	
4	Sat	Oct 30	Bolton All Saints v. Witton	1-3	
5	Sat	Oct 9	Bolton Hornets v. Blackburn Perseverence	0-4	
6	Sat	Oct 23	Bolton Olympic v. Blackburn Rising Sun	5-3	
7	Sat	Oct 30	Bolton Wanderers v. Irwell Springs	7-1	
8	Sat	Oct 16	Bootle v. Num Nook	1-3	
9	Sat	Oct 30	Darwen v. Haslingden Grane	9-0	
10	Sat	Nov 6	Eagley v. Church	5-2	
11	Sat	Nov 13	Enfield v. Middleton	6-0	
12	Sat	Nov 6	Great Harwood v. Liverpool	9-0	
13	Sat	Nov 6	++ Great Lever v. Everton	1-0	result later declared void.
	Sat	Nov 27	Great Lever v. Everton	7-1	
14	Sat	Nov 6	Halliwell v. Brinscall	0-1	
15	Sat	Nov 20	Lower Chapel v. Blackburn Olympic	3-3	
	Sat	Dec 4	+ Blackburn Olympic v. Lower Chapel	1-2	abandoned, result stands.
16	Sat	Nov 13	Myrtle Grove v. Star Of England	0-2	
17	Sat	Nov 13	Padiham v. Lower Darwen	4-2	
18	Sat	Nov 13	Rishton v. Cox Green	2-6	
19	Sat	Nov 20	Turton v. Preston North End	6-0	
20	Sat	Oct 23	Westhoughton v. Blackburn Christ Church	1-3	
21			Clitheroe St Marys - w/o.		Manchester Wanderers scratched.
			Barrow Rangers - bye.		
Round 2					
1	Sat	Dec 11	Accrington v. Padiham	4-1	
2	Sat	Dec 11	Blackburn Park Road v. Brinscall	3-0	
3	Sat	Dec 4	Blackburn Perseverence v. Enfield	1-2	
4	Sat	Dec 4	Blackburn Rovers v. Clitheroe St Marys	3-0	
5	Sat	Dec 18	Bolton Olympic v. Great Lever	2-2	
	Sat	Jan 1	++ Great Lever v. Bolton Olympic	3-4	result later declared void.
	Sat	Jan 22	+ Great Lever v. Bolton Olympic	3-2	
6	Sat	Dec 11	Cox Green v. Blackburn Christ Church	2-1	
7	Sat	Nov 20	Great Harwood v. Bolton Wanderers	0-2	
8	Sat	Jan 8	Lower Chapel v. Eagley	1-5	
9	Sat	Dec 11	Star Of England v. Darwen	1-6	
10	Sat	Dec 4	Witton v. Num Nook	3-2	
11			Turton - w/o.		Barrow Rangers scratched.
Round 3					
1	Sat	Jan 15	Blackburn Park Road v. Cox Green	2-1	
2	Sat	Jan 22	Turton v. Blackburn Rovers	0-6	
3	Sat	Feb 5	Bolton Wanderers v. Great Lever	3-2	
4	Sat	Feb 5	Eagley v. Enfield	2-3	
5	Sat	Dec 18	Witton v. Accrington	2-6	
			Darwen - bye.		
Round 4					
1	Sat	Feb 26	Accrington v. Enfield	3-0	
2	Sat	Feb 26	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Park Road	1-1	
	Sat	Mar 12	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Park Road	1-6	
3			Blackburn Rovers v. Darwen		both teams expelled.

Final

Sat, Apr 23, at Barley Bank, Darwen.

Accrington	6	(Eastham 2, Yates, Horne 2, Lonsdale)
Blackburn Park Road	4	(Cunliffe, Nuttall 2, Knowles)
Accrington	Howorth; Hindle, Whittaker; Talbot, Latham; Hartley, Lonsdale, Eastham, French, Yates, Horne.	
Blackburn Park Road	J McQuirk; Holden, Hopwood; T McQuirk, Bradley; Brown, Nuttall, Pickup, Whalley, Cunliffe, Knowles.	
Referee	W Pierce-Dix, of Sheffield.	
Umpires	C Smith, of Great Harwood; and D Haslam, of Bolton.	
Attendance	4,000 (receipts £51-17s-3d).	

1881-82			Number of entrants: 59.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Oct 8	Accrington v. Blackpool	9-1	
2	Sat	Oct 29	Accrington Wanderers v. Oswaldtwistle St Pauls	3-0	
3	Sat	Oct 22	Astley Bridge v. Blackburn Olympic	1-5	
4	Sat	Oct 29	Barrow Rangers v. Rossendale	1-1	
	Sat	Nov 5	+ Rossendale v. Barrow Rangers	2-1	
5	Sat	Oct 29	Bolton Hornets v. Blackburn Law	3-2	
6	Sat	Nov 5	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Park Road	10-4	
7	Sat	Nov 5	Bootle v. Preston North End	1-1	
	Sat	Nov 12	+ Preston North End v. Bootle	2-1	
8	Sat	Oct 29	Bradshaw v. Great Harwood	2-3	
9	Sat	Oct 29	Brinscall v. Darwen St Johns	1-4	
10	Sat	Oct 29	++ Church v. Manchester Wanderers	5-3	result later declared void.
	Sat	Nov 19	Church v. Manchester Wanderers	9-1	
11	Sat	?Nov 12	Clitheroe v. Hurst	2-0	latest possible date.
12	Sat	Oct 15	Darwen Ramblers v. Irwell Springs	3-6	
13	Sat	Oct 15	Eagley v. Great Lever	4-4	
	Sat	Oct 29	+ Great Lever v. Eagley	5-2	
14	Sat	?Oct 8	Enfield v. Water	15-1	latest possible date.
15	Sat	Oct 22	Everton v. Middleton	5-0	
16	Sat	Oct 15	Farnworth v. Back o'th' Bank	1-2	
17	Sat	Oct 29	Halliwell v. Loveclough	5-0	
18	Sat	Nov 5	Kirkham v. Blackburn Rovers	0-14	
19	Sat	Oct 22	Liverpool v. Accrington Borough	1-1	
	Sat	Nov 5	+ Accrington Borough v. Liverpool	1-4	
20	Sat	Oct 29	Low Moor v. Abbey Village	5-1	
21	Sat	Oct 29	Lower Darwen v. Bolton Olympic	6-1	
22	Sat	Oct 15	Padiham v. Earlestown	12-0	
23	Sat	?Nov 12	Padiham St Leonards v. Witton	4-8	latest possible date.
24	Sat	Oct 29	Rishton v. Blackburn Perseverence	4-1	
25	Sat	Oct 29	South Shore v. Liverpool St Peters	2-1	
26	Sat	Oct 22	Star Of England v. Cox Green	4-1	
27	Sat	Nov 5	Stars & Stripes v. Stacksteads Working Men	0-2	
28	Sat	Oct 29	Westhoughton v. Gilnow Rangers	1-2	
29			Turton - w/o.		Darwen scratched.
			Bolton All Saints - bye.		
Round 2					
1	Sat	Dec 10	Accrington v. Rishton	8-0	
2	Mon	Nov 28	Blackburn Olympic v. Padiham	3-1	
3	Sat	Nov 26	Clitheroe v. Blackburn Rovers	1-10	
4	Sat	Dec 3	Darwen St Johns v. Witton	3-8	
5	Sat	Dec 10	Enfield v. Bolton All Saints	6-0	
6	Sat	Dec 3	Gilnow Rangers v. Accrington Wanderers	4-4	
	Sat	Dec 10	+ Accrington Wanderers v. Gilnow Rangers	4-2	
7	Sat	Nov 19	Great Harwood v. Lower Darwen	4-8	
8	Sat	Dec 3	Great Lever v. Liverpool	3-1	
9	Sat	Nov 26	Halliwell v. Star Of England	9-2	
10	Sat	Dec 10	Irwell Springs v. Bolton Hornets	9-1	
11	Sat	Dec 10	Low Moor v. Bolton Wanderers	0-13	
12	Sat	Dec 3	Preston North End v. Stacksteads Working Men	12-3	
13	Sat	Dec 3	Rossendale v. Back o'th' Bank	1-0	
14	Sat	Nov 26	South Shore v. Church	2-7	
15	Sat	Dec 10	Turton v. Everton	3-1	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Jan 2	Blackburn Olympic v. Enfield	1-1	
	Sat	Jan 7	+ Enfield v. Blackburn Olympic	0-6	
2	Sat	Jan 7	Blackburn Rovers v. Accrington Wanderers	7-0	
3	Sat	Jan 7	Bolton Wanderers v. Lower Darwen	9-0	
4	Mon	Jan 2	Church v. Rossendale	7-3	
5	Sat	Dec 24	Halliwell v. Accrington	0-5	
6	Sat	Jan 7	Irwell Springs v. Great Lever	3-4	
7	Sat	Jan 7	Turton v. Preston North End	8-0	
			Witton - bye.		
Round 4					
1	Sat	Feb 11	Accrington v. Bolton Wanderers	7-3	
2	Sat	Jan 28	Blackburn Rovers v. Church	6-0	
3	Sat	Feb 18	Great Lever v. Blackburn Olympic	2-4	
4	Sat	Feb 4	Witton v. Turton	2-2	
	Sat	Feb 18	+ Turton v. Witton	3-5	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Feb 25	Blackburn Olympic v. Blackburn Rovers	1-6	
2	Sat	Mar 11	++ Accrington v. Witton	2-1	(at Barley Bank, Darwen), result later declared void.
	Mon	Mar 27	Accrington v. Witton	4-2	(at Barley Bank, Darwen)

Final		
Sat, Apr 15, at Burnley Cricket Club.		
Blackburn Rovers	3	(Strachan, Suter, Duckworth)
Accrington	1	(Hacking)
Blackburn Rovers	Howorth; Greenwood, Suter; McIntyre, FW Hargreaves; Duckworth, Douglas; Strachan, Brown; J Hargreaves, Avery.	
Accrington	Chew; Whittaker, Hindle; Talbot, Brice; Wilkinson, Lonsdale; J Hargreaves, Eastham; Hacking, Yates.	
Referee	R Gowland, of Wolverhampton.	
Umpires	W Duckworth, of Blackburn Rovers FC; and S Ormerod, of Accrington FC.	
Attendance	5,000 (receipts £128-2s-11d).	

1882-83

1882-83			Number of entrants: 76.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Oct 7	Accrington v. Great Harwood	7-0	
2	Sat	Oct 14	Back o'th' Bank v. Bradshaw	1-10	
3	Sat	Nov 4	Blackburn Park Road v. Adlington	16-1	
4	Sat	Sep 30	Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	8-0	
5	Sat	Nov 4	Blackpool v. Gilnow Rangers	1-2	
6	Sat	Sep 30	Bolton All Saints v. Peel Bank Rovers	1-3	
7	Sat	Oct 21	Bolton Olympic v. Bootle	6-3	
8	Sat	Oct 14	Burnley v. Astley Bridge	0-8	
9	Sat	Nov 4	Burscough v. Darcy Lever	0-3	
10	Sat	?Nov 4	Clitheroe v. Church	4-1	latest possible date.
11	Sat	Nov 4	Darwen v. Manchester Wanderers	7-0	
12	Sat	Oct 14	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Liverpool	6-4	
13	Sat	Oct 14	Darwen Saxons v. Wheelton	12-1	
14	Sat	Oct 28	Darwen St Johns v. Brinscall	10-2	
15	Sat	Oct 28	Earlestown v. Accrington Borough	1-1	
	Sat	Nov 4	+ Accrington Borough v. Earlestown	5-3	
16	Sat	Nov 4	Egerton v. Bolton Wanderers	2-6	
17	Sat	Sep 30	Enfield v. Clitheroe Wanderers	7-2	
18	Sat	Nov 4	Farnworth v. Blackburn Law	3-2	
19	Sat	Oct 14	Great Lever v. Low Moor	2-2	
	Sat	Oct 28	+ Low Moor v. Great Lever	0-3	
20	Sat	Oct 28	Haslingden v. Greenwoods Millers	0-1	
21	Sat	Oct 21	Irwell Springs v. Brierfield	11-2	
22	Sat	Oct 21	Kirkham v. Turton	0-3	
23	Sat	Oct 28	Liverpool St Peters v. Livesey Grasshoppers	0-17	
24	Sat	Oct 28	Liverpool Stanley v. Edgworth	3-2	
25	Sat	Oct 21	Lower Darwen v. Preston North End	3-2	
26	Sat	?Oct 28	Lytham v. Hurst	3-3	latest possible date.
	Sat	?Nov 4	+ Hurst v. Lytham	3-2	latest possible date.
27	Sat	Nov 4	++ Old Blackburnians v. Withnell	6-4	result later declared void.
	Sat	Nov 18	Withnell v. Old Blackburnians	2-1	
28	Sat	Oct 28	Padiham v. Darwen Ramblers	4-3	
29	Sat	Oct 21	++ Padiham Church v. Blackburn Olympic	0-11	result later declared void.
			Padiham Church - w/o.		Blackburn Olympic expelled.
30	Sat	Oct 14	Rawtenstall v. Eagley	3-4	
31	Sat	Oct 21	Rishton v. Hurst Clarence	14-0	
32	Sat	Oct 21	Rossendale v. Westhoughton	4-0	
33	Sat	Oct 21	South Shore v. Darwen Hibernians	4-2	
34	Sat	Oct 21	Southport v. Stacksteads Working Men	4-0	
35	Sat	Nov 4	Star Of England v. Halliwell	0-8	
36	Sat	Oct 21	Witton v. Oswaldtwistle St Pauls	10-0	
37			Great Marton - w/o.		Liverpool Ramblers scratched.
38			Middleton - w/o.		Barrow-in-Furness scratched.

Round 2					
1	Sat	Dec 9	Blackburn Park Road v. Accrington	3-2	
2	Sat	Dec 9	Blackburn Rovers v. Withnell	12-1	
3	Sat	Dec 2	Bradshaw v. Bolton Wanderers	2-9	
4	Sat	Dec 9	Darcy Lever v. Halliwell	2-2	
	Sat	Dec 16	+ Halliwell v. Darcy Lever	2-2	both teams go into Round 3.
5	Sat	Dec 2	++ Darwen v. Bolton Olympic	3-0	result later declared void.
	Sat	Dec 16	Darwen v. Bolton Olympic	6-4	
6	Sat	Nov 25	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Greenwoods Millers	4-2	
7	Sat	Dec 2	Darwen Saxons v. Peel Bank Rovers	1-1	
	Sat	Dec 9	+ Peel Bank Rovers v. Darwen Saxons	6-1	
8	Sat	Nov 18	Eagley v. Padiham Church	7-0	
9	Sat	Dec 9	Farnworth v. Darwen St Johns	0-5	
10	Sat	Dec 2	Gilnow Rangers v. Accrington Borough	11-1	
11	Sat	Nov 25	Great Lever v. Middleton	9-0	
12	Sat	Dec 2	Great Marton v. Irwell Springs	1-2	
13	Sat	Dec 9	Hurst v. Rossendale	1-3	
14	Sat	Nov 25	Livesey Grasshoppers v. Clitheroe	7-0	
15	Sat	Dec 2	Lower Darwen v. Enfield	8-1	
16	Sat	Dec 9	Rishton v. Southport	5-4	
17	Sat	Nov 18	South Shore v. Astley Bridge	3-4	
18	Sat	Dec 2	Turton v. Padiham	1-1	
	Sat	Dec 9	+ Padiham v. Turton	4-2	
19	Sat	Nov 25	Witton v. Liverpool Stanley	23-0	
Round 3					
1	Sat	Jan 6	Blackburn Rovers v. Astley Bridge	3-0	
2	Sat	Jan 6	Darcy Lever v. Halliwell	1-4	
3	Sat	Jan 6	Darwen v. Irwell Springs	2-2	
	Sat	Jan 13	+ Irwell Springs v. Darwen	0-2	
4	Sat	Jan 6	Darwen St Johns v. Livesey Grasshoppers	1-1	
	Sat	Jan 13	+ Livesey Grasshoppers v. Darwen St Johns	2-2	both teams go into Round 4.
5	Sat	Jan 20	Great Lever v. Eagley	4-4	
	Sat	Feb 3	+ Eagley v. Great Lever	4-1	
6	Mon	Jan 1	Lower Darwen v. Witton	3-2	
7	Sat	Dec 23	Padiham v. Darwen Old Wanderers	2-1	
8	Sat	Jan 6	Rishton v. Bolton Wanderers	2-2	
	Sat	Jan 20	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Rishton	10-1	
9	Sat	Jan 6	Rossendale v. Gilnow Rangers	4-1	
			Blackburn Park Road, Peel Bank Rovers - byes.		
Round 4					
1	Sat	Feb 17	Blackburn Park Road v. Eagley	6-2	
2	Sat	Jan 27	Blackburn Rovers v. Halliwell	4-0	
3	Sat	Feb 3	Bolton Wanderers v. Peel Bank Rovers	7-0	
4	Sat	Jan 27	Darwen v. Lower Darwen	2-0	
5	Sat	Feb 3	++ Livesey Grasshoppers v. Darwen St Johns	3-2	result later declared void.
			Darwen St Johns - w/o.		Livesey Grasshoppers expelled.
6	Sat	Jan 27	Rossendale v. Padiham	2-4	
Round 5					
1	Mon	Mar 5	Blackburn Park Road v. Darwen	0-4	
2	Sat	Feb 17	Bolton Wanderers v. Darwen St Johns	5-1	
3	Sat	Feb 17	Padiham v. Blackburn Rovers	1-5	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Mar 17	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	4-1	(at Barley Bank, Darwen)
			Darwen - bye.		

Final

Sat, Mar 31, at Barley Bank, Darwen.

Blackburn Rovers	3	(Brown, Douglas, Avery)
Darwen	2	(McGuire, Ashton)

Blackburn Rovers: Woolfall; Suter, Beverley; McIntyre, EJ Brown; Duckworth, Douglas; J Brown, Strachan; J Hargreaves, Avery.

Darwen: Broughton; Entwistle, Holden; Fish, Kershaw; Marshall, Rostron; Ashton, McGuire; Mellor, Whalley.

Referee: JC Clegg, of Sheffield.

Umpires: W Duckworth, of Blackburn Rovers FC; and EH Taylor, of Darwen FC.

Attendance: 12,000 (receipts £262).

1883-84			Number of entrants: 84.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 29	Accrington v. Burnley Ramblers	10-1	
2	Sat	Oct 13	Astley Bridge v. Hurst	7-1	
3	Mon	Oct 22	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	11-1	
4	Sat	Oct 27	Blackburn West End v. Darwen Ramblers	2-6	
5	Sat	Oct 27	Bolton All Saints v. Great Harwood	3-4	
6	Sat	Oct 6	Bolton Olympic v. Chorley	3-1	
7	Sat	Sep 29	Bolton Wanderers v. Darwen Old Wanderers	1-2	
8	Sat	Oct 20	Brierfield v. Rishton	1-11	
9	Sat	Oct 27	Burnley v. South Shore	1-4	
10	Sat	Oct 13	Burnley Olympic v. Fishwick Ramblers	2-1	
11	Sat	Oct 6	Church v. Liverpool Ramblers	10-0	
12	Sat	Oct 27	Clitheroe Olympic v. Oswaldtwistle Rovers	0-2	
13	Sat	Sep 29	Clitheroe Wanderers v. Blackburn Parish Church	2-2	
	Sat	Oct 6	+ Clitheroe Wanderers v. Blackburn Parish Church	5-0	
14	Sat	Oct 20	Croston v. Greenwoods Millers	0-7	
15	Sat	Oct 13	Darwen v. Bootle	14-1	
16	Sat	Sep 15	Eagley v. Peel Bank Rovers	4-3	
17	Sat	Oct 27	Earlestown v. Barnes Rovers	7-1	
18	Sat	Oct 13	Enfield v. Bolton Association	3-2	
19	Sat	Oct 27	Gilnow Rangers v. Rawtenstall	1-5	
20	Sat	Oct 6	Golborne v. Farnworth	4-4	
	Sat	Oct 27	++ Farnworth v. Golborne	0-1	result later declared void.
			+ Golborne - w/o.		Farnworth scratched.
21	Sat	Oct 27	Great Lever v. Clitheroe	4-2	
22	Sat	Oct 6	Halliwell v. Belmont	10-1	
23	Sat	Oct 20	++ Higher Walton v. Oswaldtwistle St Pauls	8-3	result later declared void.
	Sat	Nov 10	Higher Walton v. Oswaldtwistle St Pauls	3-0	
24	Sat	Oct 6	Hurst Clarence v. Harwood	1-0	
25	Sat	?Nov 3	Irwell Springs v. Greenheys	8-0	latest possible date.
26	Sat	Oct 27	Kirkham v. Abbey Village	1-1	
	Sat	Nov 10	+ Abbey Village v. Kirkham	2-0	
27	Sat	Sep 8	Little Hulton v. Darwen St Johns	1-8	
28	Sat	Oct 27	Loveclough v. Bradshaw	6-2	
29	Sat	Oct 27	Lytham v. Adlington	2-0	
30	Sat	Oct 27	Nelson v. Wheelton	1-3	
31	Sat	Oct 27	Newton Heath v. Blackburn Olympic	2-7	
32	Sat	Sep 29	Padiham v. Blackburn Park Road	2-3	
33	Sat	Oct 27	Peel Park v. Darcy Lever	2-0	
34	Sat	Oct 13	Preston North End v. Lower Darwen	0-2	
35	Sat	Oct 13	Rossendale v. Tonge	12-1	
36	Sat	Oct 13	Southport v. Hurst Park Road	3-0	
37	Sat	Oct 6	Stacksteads Working Men v. Haydock Temperance	4-4	
	Sat	Oct 20	+ Haydock Temperance v. Stacksteads Working Men	5-0	
38	Sat	?Oct 27	Turton v. Great Marton	2-0	latest possible date.
39	Sat	Oct 27	Westhoughton v. Manchester	4-1	
40	Sat	Sep 15	Willows Rovers v. Low Moor	0-8	
41	Sat	Sep 15	Witton v. Blackpool St Johns	9-0	
42			Darwen Hibernians - w/o.		Preston St Saviours scratched.
Round 2					
1	Sat	Nov 24	Abbey Village v. Irwell Springs	2-1	
2	Sat	Dec 15	Accrington v. Blackburn Park Road	3-0	
3	Sat	Dec 1	Astley Bridge v. Hurst Clarence	11-0	
4	Sat	Dec 15	Blackburn Olympic v. Darwen Ramblers	4-0	
5	Mon	Nov 12	Blackburn Rovers v. Lower Darwen	8-0	
6	Sat	Nov 24	Bolton Olympic v. Golborne	6-0	abandoned, result stands.
7	Sat	Nov 10	Church v. Lytham	8-0	
8	Sat	Nov 17	Clitheroe Wanderers v. Darwen St Johns	1-1	
	Sat	Dec 1	+ Darwen St Johns v. Clitheroe Wanderers	5-0	
9	Sat	Nov 24	Darwen v. Halliwell	3-1	
10	Sat	Nov 24	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Darwen Hibernians	5-2	
11	Sat	Nov 24	Great Lever v. Rishton	7-0	
12	Sat	Nov 10	Greenwoods Millers v. Oswaldtwistle Rovers	0-4	
13	Sat	Dec 1	Haydock Temperance v. Enfield	0-1	latest possible date.
14	Sat	Nov 24	Loveclough v. Higher Walton	5-2	
15	Sat	Nov 10	Low Moor v. Westhoughton	7-0	
16	Sat	Nov 24	Peel Park v. Rawtenstall	0-5	
17	Sat	?Dec 1	Rossendale v. Great Harwood	4-3	latest possible date.
18	Sat	Nov 17	South Shore v. Eagley	2-0	
19	Sat	Dec 1	Southport v. Wheelton	4-3	
20	Sat	Nov 17	Turton v. Earlestown	6-2	
21	Sat	Dec 1	Witton v. Burnley Olympic	13-1	

Round 3					
1	Mon	Dec 31	Accrington v. South Shore	3-0	
2	Sat	Dec 29	Astley Bridge v. Loveclough	7-0	
3	Thu	Dec 13	Blackburn Rovers v. Withnell	5-0	
4	Sat	Jan 5	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Darwen St Johns	3-1	
5	Tue	Jan 1	Enfield v. Turton	1-3	
6	Sat	Dec 22	Low Moor v. Darwen	2-5	
7	Sat	Dec 15	Oswaldtwistle Rovers v. Rossendale	4-2	
8	Sat	Jan 5	Rawtenstall v. Church	1-4	
9	Sat	Dec 22	Southport v. Blackburn Olympic	0-2	
10	Sat	Dec 22	Witton v. Bolton Olympic	4-0	
			Great Lever - bye.		
Round 4					
1	Sat	Feb 2	++ Accrington v. Church	2-3	result later declared void.
			Accrington - w/o.		Church expelled.
2	Sat	Feb 2	Astley Bridge v. Great Lever	7-1	
3	Sat	Feb 2	Blackburn Olympic v. Turton	8-0	
4	Mon	Jan 28	Blackburn Rovers v. Darwen Old Wanderers	2-1	
5	Sat	Jan 26	Witton v. Oswaldtwistle Rovers	3-0	
			Darwen - bye.		
Round 5					
1	Sat	Feb 9	Astley Bridge v. Witton	2-2	
	Sat	Feb 23	+ Witton v. Astley Bridge	2-1	
2	Tue	Feb 26	Blackburn Rovers v. Accrington	0-0	
	Sat	Mar 8	+ Accrington v. Blackburn Rovers	3-6	
3	Sat	Feb 16	Blackburn Olympic v. Darwen	3-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Mar 15	Blackburn Rovers v. Witton	1-1	
	Wed	Mar 19	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Witton	4-1	
			Blackburn Olympic - bye.		

Final

Sat, Mar 22, at Deepdale, Preston.

Blackburn Olympic	1	(Birtwistle)
Blackburn Rovers	1	(Sowerbutts)
Blackburn Olympic	Woolfall; Ward, Crook; Gibson, Hunter, Duckworth; Yates, Birtwistle, Parker, Matthews, Dewhurst.	
Blackburn Rovers	Arthur; Suter, Beverley; McIntyre, Forrest; Douglas, Lofthouse; Sowerbutts, Strachan; Brown, Avery.	
Referee	RM Sloan, of Bootle.	
Umpires	S Ormerod, of Accrington FC; and W Sudell, of Preston North End FC.	
Attendance	10,000 (receipts £230-14s-6d).	

Final replay

Sat, Apr 19, at Barley Bank, Darwen.

Blackburn Rovers	2	(Sowerbutts, McIntyre)
Blackburn Olympic	1	(Parker)
Blackburn Rovers	Arthur; Suter, Beverley; McIntyre, Forrest; Douglas, Lofthouse; Brown, Sowerbutts; Hargreaves, Avery.	
Blackburn Olympic	Hacking; Ward, Crook; Gibson, Hunter, Duckworth; Dewhurst, Matthews, Parker, Yates, Costley.	
Referee	C Crump, of the Birmingham & District FA.	
Umpires	H Allen, of Stoke FC; and S Ormerod, of Accrington FC.	
Attendance	6,000 (receipts £172-8s-9d).	

1884-85			Number of entrants: 104.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 27	Adlington v. Witton	0-7	
2	Sat	Oct 4	Astley Bridge v. Bolton All Saints	13-0	
3	Sat	Sep 27	Bamber Bridge v. South Shore	3-5	
4	Sat	Oct 4	Barnes Rovers v. Preston Perseverence	4-3	
5	Sat	Oct 4	Blackburn Olympic v. Leigh	18-0	
6	Sat	Sep 27	Blackburn Rovers v. Withnell	8-2	
7	Sat	Oct 4	Blackburn West End v. Greenheys	5-1	
8	Sat	Sep 27	Blackpool St Johns v. Peel Park	7-1	
9	Sat	Sep 27	Bolton Association v. Heapey Institute	5-0	
10	Sat	Oct 4	Bolton Wanderers v. Hurst Park Road	10-1	
11	Sat	Sep 20	Bradshaw v. Burnley	2-1	
12	Sat	?Oct 4	Burnley Olympic v. Rishton	1-5	latest possible date.
13	Sat	Sep 20	Burnley Ramblers v. Gillibrand Rangers	4-0	
14	Sat	Oct 4	Burnley Union Star v. Halliwell	3-2	
15	Sat	Sep 20	Burnley Wanderers v. Blackburn Park Road	4-4	
	Sat	Sep 27	+ Blackburn Park Road v. Burnley Wanderers	6-0	
16	Sat	Sep 20	Church v. Clitheroe Olympic	8-1	
17	Sat	Sep 27	Clitheroe v. Breightmet	8-4	
18	Sat	Oct 4	Darcy Lever v. Bells Temperance	4-3	
19	Sat	Oct 4	Darwen v. Bootle	9-1	
20	Sat	Sep 20	Darwen Hibernians v. Accrington Grasshoppers	0-0	
	Sat	Sep 27	+ Accrington Grasshoppers v. Darwen Hibernians	2-2	
	Sat	Oct 4	+ Darwen Hibernians v. Accrington Grasshoppers	0-1	
21	Sat	?Oct 4	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Scout Bottom Blue Ribbon	17-2	latest possible date.
22	Sat	Oct 4	Eagley v. Darwen Rovers	2-4	
23	Sat	Oct 4	Earlestown v. Ribchester	10-2	
24	Sat	Sep 27	Fishwick Ramblers v. Oswaldtwistle Hibernians	3-1	
25	Sat	Oct 4	++ Golborne v. Lytham	2-1	result later declared void.
	Sat	Oct 18	Golborne v. Lytham	1-0	
26	Sat	Sep 20	Great Harwood v. Fleetwood Rangers	8-0	
27	Sat	Sep 27	Hapton v. Levenshulme	5-1	
28	Sat	Sep 27	Heywood Rovers v. Peel Bank Rovers	1-8	
29	Sat	Oct 4	Hurst v. Preston North End	1-3	
30	Sat	Oct 4	Kearsley v. Higher Walton	0-11	
31	Sat	Oct 4	Little Hulton v. Eccles	3-1	
32	Sat	Oct 4	Lostock Hall v. Hurst Clarence	8-0	
33	Sat	Oct 4	Loveclough v. Rossendale	2-3	
34	Sat	Sep 20	Low Moor v. Kirkham	7-0	
35	Sat	Sep 20	Lower Darwen v. Spring Hill	15-0	
36	Sat	Oct 4	Lowerhouse v. Irwell Springs	1-0	
37	Sat	Oct 4	Manchester v. Greenwoods Millers	0-5	
38	Sat	Sep 20	Newton Heath v. Haydock Temperance	4-0	
39	Sat	Oct 4	Nelson v. Turton	0-6	
40	Sat	Sep 20	Oswaldtwistle Rovers v. Blackpool	5-1	
41	Sat	Sep 20	Preston Swifts v. Haslingden Church Institute	4-0	
42	Sat	Oct 4	Preston Zingari v. Brierfield	14-0	
43	Sat	Sep 27	Rawtenstall v. Cherry Tree	3-0	
44	Sat	Sep 13	School Lane v. Chorley	6-0	
45	Sat	Sep 20	Southport v. Horwich	3-1	
46	Sat	Oct 4	Springfield v. Baxenden	1-9	
47	Sat	Oct 4	Tonge v. Westhoughton	0-3	
48	Sat	Oct 4	Wheelton v. Great Marton	7-2	
49	Sat	Oct 4	Wigan v. Heywood	4-1	
50			Accrington - w/o.		Halliwell Jubilee expelled.
51			Great Lever - w/o.		Liverpool Ramblers scratched.
52			Padiham - w/o.		Darwen Ramblers expelled.

Round 2					
1	Sat	Nov 1	Accrington Grasshoppers v. Wigan	8-2	
2	Sat	Nov 1	Astley Bridge v. Burnley Ramblers	5-0	
3	Sat	Nov 1	Barnes Rovers v. School Lane	1-0	
4	Sat	Oct 25	Baxenden v. Newton Heath	4-1	
5	Sat	Nov 1	Blackburn Park Road v. Darwen Old Wanderers	0-3	
6	Sat	Oct 18	Bolton Wanderers v. Lowerhouse	6-1	
7	Sat	Nov 1	Bradshaw v. Darwen	0-11	
8	Sat	Oct 25	Church v. Turton	2-2	
	Sat	Nov 1	+ Turton v. Church	1-1	
	Sat	Nov 22	+ Church v. Turton	10-1	
9	Sat	Nov 1	Clitheroe v. Blackburn West End	3-1	
10	Sat	Nov 1	Darcy Lever v. Higher Walton	5-2	
11	Sat	Oct 18	Fishwick Ramblers v. Rishton	3-1	
12	Sat	Oct 25	Great Harwood v. Little Hulton	10-0	
13	Sat	Oct 25	Great Lever v. Peel Bank Rovers	4-3	
14	Sat	?Nov 1	Hapton v. Golborne	1-2	latest possible date.
15	Sat	Nov 1	Lostock Hall v. Greenwoods Millers	6-1	
16	Sat	Oct 25	Lower Darwen v. South Shore	1-1	
	Sat	Nov 1	+ South Shore v. Lower Darwen	5-1	
17	Sat	Oct 25	Oswaldtwistle Rovers v. Bolton Association	10-1	
18	Sat	Oct 25	Padiham v. Blackpool St Johns	2-3	
19	Sat	Oct 25	Preston Zingari v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	
20	Sat	Oct 25	Rawtenstall v. Burnley Union Star	7-1	
21	Sat	Nov 1	Rossendale v. Darwen Rovers	3-3	
			+ Darwen Rovers - w/o.		Rossendale scratched.
22	Sat	Nov 1	Southport v. Preston North End	1-0	
23	Sat	Oct 18	Westhoughton v. Low Moor	2-2	
			+ Low Moor - w/o.		Westhoughton expelled.
24	Sat	Oct 18	++ Wheelton v. Preston Swifts	2-6	result later declared void.
			Wheelton - w/o.		Preston Swifts expelled.
25	Sat	Oct 25	Witton v. Earlestown	6-1	
26			Blackburn Olympic - w/o.		Accrington scratched.
Round 3					
1	Sat	Nov 22	Barnes Rovers v. Darwen Old Wanderers	0-5	
2	Sat	Dec 6	Baxenden v. Oswaldtwistle Rovers	2-2	
	Sat	Dec 13	+ Oswaldtwistle Rovers v. Baxenden	5-3	
3	Sat	Nov 29	Blackburn Rovers v. Darwen Rovers	4-1	
4	Sat	Nov 29	Bolton Wanderers v. Great Lever	5-2	
5	Sat	Dec 13	Church v. Fishwick Ramblers	3-1	
6	Sat	Dec 6	Clitheroe v. Astley Bridge	0-2	
7	Sat	?Dec 6	Great Harwood v. Wheelton	5-1	latest possible date.
8	Sat	Nov 22	Lostock Hall v. Darcy Lever	3-1	
9	Sat	Dec 6	Low Moor v. Golborne	7-1	
10	Sat	Dec 6	Rawtenstall v. Accrington Grasshoppers	2-2	
	Sat	Dec 13	+ Accrington Grasshoppers v. Rawtenstall	1-2	
11	Sat	Nov 22	South Shore v. Blackburn Olympic	1-3	
12	Sat	Nov 29	Southport v. Darwen	1-2	
13	Sat	Dec 6	Witton v. Blackpool St Johns	2-0	
Round 4					
1	Sat	Jan 10	Bolton Wanderers v. Low Moor	3-0	
2	Sat	Jan 10	Church v. Lostock Hall	9-0	
3	Sat	Jan 24	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Astley Bridge	2-1	
4	Sat	Jan 3	Oswaldtwistle Rovers v. Darwen	1-0	
5	Sat	Jan 3	Witton v. Great Harwood	4-1	
			Blackburn Olympic, Blackburn Rovers, Rawtenstall - byes.		
Round 5					
1	Sat	Jan 31	Bolton Wanderers v. Darwen Old Wanderers	3-1	
2	Sat	Feb 7	Oswaldtwistle Rovers v. Blackburn Olympic	0-5	
3	Sat	Jan 31	Rawtenstall v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2	
	Sat	Feb 14	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Rawtenstall	4-1	
4	Sat	Jan 31	Witton v. Church	2-3	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Mar 7	Blackburn Olympic v. Church	4-3	(at Pikes Lane, Bolton)
2	Sat	Apr 11	++ Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	1-5	(at Barley Bank, Darwen), result later declared void.
			Blackburn Rovers - w/o.		Bolton Wanderers expelled.

Final

Sat, Apr 18, at Deepdale, Preston.

Blackburn Rovers	2	(Fecitt, Brown)
Blackburn Olympic	1	(Slater)
Blackburn Rovers	Arthur; Turner, Suter; McIntyre, Forrest; Douglas, Walton; Brown, Roberts; Sowerbutts, Fecitt.	
Blackburn Olympic	Southworth; Beverley, Ward; Hunter, Gibson, Astley; Whitehead, Matthews, Parker, Slater, Costley.	
Referee	MP Betts, of the Old Harrovians FC.	
Attendance	6,000 (receipts £169-4s-0d).	

1885-86			Number of entrants: 53.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Oct 3	++ Astley Bridge v. Manchester	5-1	result later declared void.
			Manchester - w/o.		Astley Bridge expelled.
2	Sat	Oct 3	Blackburn Olympic v. Great Harwood	5-0	
3	Sat	Oct 10	Blackburn Rovers v. Lostock Hall	4-0	
4	Sat	Sep 26	Blackpool St Johns v. Lower Darwen	3-3	
	Sat	Oct 10	+ Lower Darwen v. Blackpool St Johns	0-1	
5	Sat	Oct 3	Burnley Union Star v. Tonge	7-2	
6	Sat	Oct 10	Burnley Wanderers v. Bolton Wanderers	0-0	
	Wed	Oct 21	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Burnley Wanderers	7-0	
7	Sat	Sep 19	Cherry Tree v. Bootle	2-0	
8	Sat	Oct 3	Church v. Earlestown	2-0	
9	Sat	Sep 12	Clitheroe v. Accrington	1-2	
10	Sat	Oct 3	Darwen v. Southport	12-1	
11	Sat	Sep 12	Darwen Hibernians v. Darwen Old Wanderers	0-2	
12	Sat	Sep 26	Darwen Ramblers v. Wigan	1-4	
13	Sat	Sep 12	Fishwick Ramblers v. Low Moor	2-0	
14	Sat	Sep 12	Halliwell v. Preston North End	3-3	
	Mon	Sep 28	+ Preston North End v. Halliwell	7-0	
15	Sat	Oct 3	Haydock v. Liverpool Ramblers	4-0	
16	Sat	Sep 26	Higher Walton v. Blackburn Park Road	1-5	
17	Sat	Oct 10	Hurst v. Eagley	4-1	
18	Sat	Oct 10	Irwell Springs v. Eccles	10-0	
19	Sat	Sep 26	Loveclough v. Rawtenstall	5-1	
20	Sat	Sep 19	Preston Swifts v. Lowerhouse	2-2	
	Sat	Oct 3	+ Lowerhouse v. Preston Swifts	7-1	
21	Sat	Sep 5	Peel Bank Rovers v. Burnley Ramblers	2-1	
22	Sat	Oct 3	Rishton v. Witton	0-3	
23	Sat	Oct 10	Rossendale v. Greenheys	5-2	
24	Sat	Oct 10	South Shore v. School Lane	4-0	
25	Sat	Sep 26	Turton v. Baxenden	4-2	
26			Padiham - w/o.		Burnley scratched.
			Great Lever - bye.		
Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 24	Blackpool St Johns v. Blackburn Park Road	2-0	
2	Sat	Oct 31	Cherry Tree v. Accrington	2-0	
3	Sat	Nov 7	Darwen v. Peel Bank Rovers	3-2	
4	Sat	Nov 7	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Witton	2-3	
5	Sat	Nov 7	Haydock v. Manchester	2-0	
6	Sat	Nov 7	Hurst v. Blackburn Rovers	0-6	
7	Sat	Nov 7	Irwell Springs v. Burnley Union Star	12-0	
8	Sat	Oct 24	Loveclough v. Turton	2-1	
9	Sat	Nov 7	Padiham v. Church	1-6	
10	Sat	Nov 7	Rossendale v. Lowerhouse	2-1	
11	Sat	Nov 7	South Shore v. Bolton Wanderers	1-3	
12			Fishwick Ramblers - w/o.		Wigan expelled.
13			Preston North End - w/o.		Great Lever scratched.
			Blackburn Olympic - bye.		
Round 3					
1	Sat	Dec 5	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Olympic	11-2	
2	Sat	Nov 28	Cherry Tree v. Blackpool St Johns	1-3	
3	Sat	Dec 5	Irwell Springs v. Church	2-3	
4	Sat	Nov 21	Preston North End v. Fishwick Ramblers	11-0	
5	Sat	Nov 28	Rossendale v. Haydock	8-1	
6	Sat	Nov 28	Witton v. Loveclough	6-0	
			Blackburn Rovers, Darwen - byes.		
Round 4					
1	Sat	Dec 19	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool St Johns	9-1	
2	Sat	Dec 26	Church v. Blackburn Rovers	2-3	
3	Sat	Dec 26	Preston North End v. Witton	5-3	
4	Fri	Dec 25	Rossendale v. Darwen	2-6	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Feb 13	Darwen v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	
2			Blackburn Rovers - w/o.		Preston North End scratched.

Final

Sat, Apr 17, at Deepdale, Preston.

Bolton Wanderers	1	(Hewitson)
Blackburn Rovers	0	
Bolton Wanderers	Trainer; Holden, Parkinson; Steel, Davenport, Bullough; Brogan, Fallon, Struthers, Hough, Hewitson.	
Blackburn Rovers	McIntyre; Turner, Suter; Hayes, Douglas, Forrest; Lofthouse, Walton, Brown, Fecitt, Sowerbutts.	
Referee	C Crump, of the Birmingham & District FA.	
Umpires	JP Hartley, of Accrington FC; and W Fairhurst, of Bolton.	
Attendance	7,000 (receipts £214-14s-6d).	

1886-87			Number of entrants: 32.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Oct 9	Accrington v. Darwen	2-1	
2	Sat	Oct 9	Bolton Wanderers v. Wigan	14-0	
3	Sat	Oct 9	++ Burnley Union Star v. Burnley	2-2	aet, result later declared void.
			Burnley - w/o.		Burnley Union Star expelled.
4	Sat	Sep 25	Fishwick Ramblers v. Higher Walton	3-4	
5	Sat	Oct 2	Halliwell v. Astley Bridge	1-2	
6	Sat	Oct 9	Haydock v. Church	0-4	
7	Sat	Oct 9	Irwell Springs v. Darwen Old Wanderers	4-2	
8	Sat	Oct 9	Loveclough v. Manchester	5-0	
9	Sat	Oct 30	Padiham v. Blackburn Park Road	3-2	
10	Sat	Oct 9	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	7-1	
11	Sat	Oct 9	Rawtenstall v. Bootle	1-5	
12	Sat	Oct 9	Rossendale v. Cherry Tree	2-0	
13	Sat	Oct 9	South Shore v. Low Moor	4-2	
14	Sat	Oct 2	++ Turton v. Lower Darwen	9-2	result later declared void.
			Lower Darwen - w/o.		Turton expelled.
15	Sat	Oct 9	Witton v. Blackburn Olympic	3-0	
16			Great Lever - w/o.		Hurst scratched.
Round 2					
1	Sat	Nov 6	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	1-5	
2	Sat	Nov 6	Church v. Great Lever	1-3	
3	Sat	Nov 6	Higher Walton v. Accrington	1-6	
4	Sat	Nov 27	Irwell Springs v. Rossendale	2-3	
5	Sat	Nov 6	Loveclough v. Astley Bridge	4-1	
6	Sat	Nov 6	Padiham v. South Shore	4-2	
7	Mon	Nov 1	Preston North End v. Lower Darwen	9-2	
8	Sat	Nov 6	Witton v. Bootle	8-0	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Nov 22	Preston North End v. Loveclough	12-0	
2	Sat	Dec 4	++ Rossendale v. Bolton Wanderers	1-8	result later declared void.
	Tue	Dec 14	Irwell Springs v. Bolton Wanderers	1-4	abandoned, result stands.
3			Padiham - w/o.		Great Lever scratched.
4			Witton - w/o.		Accrington scratched.
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Feb 19	Bolton Wanderers v. Padiham	4-1	(at Deepdale, Preston)
2	Sat	Feb 19	Preston North End v. Witton	12-0	(at Pikes Lane, Bolton)
Final					
Sat, Mar 26, at Pikes Lane, Bolton.					
Preston North End		3	(Dewhurst 2, J Ross)		
Bolton Wanderers		0			
Preston North End		Rose; Howarth, NJ Ross; Ferguson, Russell, Graham; Gordon, J Ross, Thomson, Dewhurst, Drummond.			
Bolton Wanderers		Trainer; McKernan, Parkinson; Bullough, Steel, Roberts; Brogan, Davenport, Struthers, Hewitson, Howarth.			
Referee		C Crump, of the Birmingham & District FA.			
Umpires		T Evans, of Liverpool; and J McIntyre, of Manchester.			
Attendance		14,500 (receipts £335-7s-3d).			

1887-88			Number of entrants: 32.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Oct 1	Accrington v. Lower Darwen	20-1	
2	Sat	Oct 1	Astley Bridge v. Haydock	3-2	
3	Sat	Oct 1	Bolton Wanderers v. Bells Temperance	10-1	
4	Sat	Oct 1	Cherry Tree v. Rawtenstall	6-3	
5	Sat	Oct 1	Church v. Loveclough	8-1	
6	Sat	Oct 1	Darwen v. Blackburn Olympic	5-2	
7	Sat	Oct 1	Everton v. Witton	1-3	
8	Sat	Oct 1	Higher Walton v. Halliwell	3-2	
9	Sat	Oct 1	Hurst v. Darwen Old Wanderers	4-0	
10	Sat	Oct 1	Irwell Springs v. Turton	2-1	
11	Sat	Oct 1	Manchester v. Blackburn Rovers	0-11	
12	Sat	Oct 1	Padiham v. Wigan	6-1	
13	Sat	Oct 1	Rossendale v. Burnley Union Star	0-2	
14	Sat	Oct 1	South Shore v. Blackburn Park Road	3-1	
15			Burnley - w/o.		Great Lever scratched.
16			Preston North End - w/o.		Bootle scratched.
Round 2					
1	Sat	Nov 19	Burnley v. Astley Bridge	1-3	
2	Sat	Nov 26	Burnley Union Star v. Bolton Wanderers	5-0	
3	Sat	Nov 19	Cherry Tree v. Darwen Old Wanderers	1-3	
4	Sat	Nov 19	Darwen v. South Shore	4-0	
5	Sat	Nov 19	Higher Walton v. Accrington	0-4	
6	Sat	Nov 19	Irwell Springs v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	
	Sat	Dec 3	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Irwell Springs	5-1	
7	Sat	Nov 19	Padiham v. Preston North End	1-3	
8	Sat	Nov 19	Witton v. Church	3-2	
Round 3					
1	Sat	Jan 21	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	3-4	
2	Sat	Jan 21	Burnley Union Star v. Darwen Old Wanderers	2-6	
3	Sat	Jan 21	Darwen v. Accrington	0-4	
4	Sat	Jan 21	Witton v. Astley Bridge	5-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Feb 25	Accrington v. Witton	1-1	(at The Copse, Fleetwood)
	Sat	Mar 24	+ Accrington v. Witton	2-1	(at Leamington Street, Blackburn)
2	Sat	Feb 25	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Preston North End	1-6	(at North Road, Manchester)
Final					
Sat, Apr 21, at Leamington Street, Blackburn. Not played.					
Accrington			- w/o.		
Preston North End			scratched.		
Accrington			Horne; Stevenson, McLellan; Haworth, Chippendale, Pemberton; Lofthouse, Bonar, Fecitt, Conway, Jack Yates.		
Play Off for Finalists Medals					
1	Sat	May 5	Darwen Old Wanderers v. Witton	0-2	(at Barley Bank, Darwen)

1888-89			Number of entrants: 24.		
Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 29	Blackburn Olympic v. Higher Walton	1-2	
2	Sat	Sep 29	Blackburn Rovers v. Astley Bridge	3-2	
3	Sat	Sep 29	Burnley Union Star v. Rawtenstall	1-0	
4	Sat	Sep 29	Everton v. Turton	4-2	
5	Sat	Sep 29	Halliwell v. Bolton Wanderers	8-1	
6	Sat	Sep 29	Haydock v. Bootle	5-1	
7	Sat	Sep 29	Irwell Springs v. Hurst	0-3	
8	Sat	Sep 29	South Shore v. Darwen	1-2	
			Accrington, Blackburn Park Road, Burnley, Darwen Old Wanderers, Manchester, Padiham, Rossendale, Witton - byes.		
Round 2					
1	Sat	Nov 10	Blackburn Park Road v. Manchester	5-0	
2	Mon	Nov 5	Blackburn Rovers v. Witton	7-0	
3	Sat	Nov 10	Burnley Union Star v. Darwen Old Wanderers	4-2	
4	Sat	Nov 10	Halliwell v. Burnley	9-4	
5	Sat	Nov 10	Haydock v. Darwen	3-2	
6	Sat	Nov 10	Higher Walton v. Rossendale	2-1	
7	Sat	Nov 10	Hurst v. Accrington	1-4	
8	Sat	Nov 10	Padiham v. Everton	0-2	
Round 3					
1	Tue	Dec 25	Everton v. Blackburn Park Road	3-2	
2	Sat	Jan 5	++ Halliwell v. Accrington	1-1	abandoned, result void.
	Thu	Feb 28	Halliwell v. Accrington	0-1	
3	Sat	Jan 5	Haydock v. Burnley Union Star	2-1	
4	Sat	Jan 5	Higher Walton v. Blackburn Rovers	3-3	
	Sat	Feb 23	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Higher Walton	4-5	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Mar 16	Accrington v. Haydock	1-1	(at Hawthorne Road, Bootle)
	Sat	Apr 6	+ Accrington v. Haydock	6-1	(at Barley Bank, Darwen)
2	Sat	Mar 16	Everton v. Higher Walton	1-3	(at Leamington Street, Blackburn)

Final

Sat, Apr 27, at Leamington Street, Blackburn.

Accrington	1	(Kirkham)
Higher Walton	1	(W Mather)
Accrington	Horne; Stevenson, McLellan; Haworth, Pemberton, Tattersall; Wilkinson, Bonar, Worsley, Kirkham, Lofthouse.	
Higher Walton	Chapman; Rose, Daley; T Naylor, Spencer, Baldwin; J Mather, Iddon, W Mather, T Naylor, E Naylor.	
Referee	M Earlam, of Davenham.	
Umpires	JJ Bentley, of Bolton Wanderers FC; and R Birtwistle, of Blackburn Rovers FC.	
Attendance	3,000 (receipts £54-5s-9d).	

Final replay

Sat, May 4, at Deepdale, Preston.

Accrington	1	(scrimmage)
Higher Walton	0	
Accrington	Horne; Stevenson, McLellan; Haworth, Pemberton, Tattersall; Wilkinson, Bonar, Singleton, Kirkham, Lofthouse.	
Higher Walton	Chapman; Rose, Daley; Baldwin, J Mather, T Naylor; E Naylor, T Naylor, W Mather, Edwards, Iddon.	
Referee	M Earlam, of Davenham.	
Umpires	JJ Bentley, of Bolton Wanderers FC; and W Forrest, of Turton FC.	
Attendance	6,000 (receipts £95-9s-6d).	

1889-90 and 1890-91

1889-90			Number of entrants: 21 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 28	South Shore v. Turton Blackburn Park Road, Burnley Union Star, Hurst, Irwell Springs, Manchester, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, South Shore - byes.	4-1	
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 12	Blackburn Park Road v. Hurst	3-0	
2	Sat	Oct 12	Burnley Union Star v. South Shore	0-1	
3	Sat	Oct 12	Irwell Springs v. Manchester	19-0	
4	Sat	Oct 12	Rossendale v. Rawtenstall	6-2	
Round 1					
1	Sat	Nov 2	Blackburn Park Road v. Higher Walton	2-2	
	Wed	Nov 6	+ Higher Walton v. Blackburn Park Road	3-1	
2	Sat	Nov 2	Blackburn Rovers v. Irwell Springs	11-1	
3	Sat	Nov 2	Bolton Wanderers v. Accrington	4-2	
4	Sat	Nov 2	Burnley v. Rossendale	4-3	
5	Sat	Nov 2	Darwen v. South Shore	4-0	
6	Wed	Nov 6	Everton v. Witton	6-0	
7	Sat	Nov 2	Halliwell v. Newton Heath	2-1	
8	Sat	Nov 2	Haydock v. Bootle	4-1	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Jan 20	Burnley v. Haydock	15-0	
2	Sat	Dec 14	Darwen v. Bolton Wanderers	4-2	
3	Sat	Dec 14	++ Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1	abandoned, result void.
	Sat	Dec 28	Everton v Blackburn Rovers	0-0	
	Mon	Jan 20	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	5-1	
4	Sat	Jan 18	Halliwell v. Higher Walton	1-4	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Apr 12	Darwen v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	
	Sat	Apr 19	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Darwen	2-0	(at Deepdale, Preston)
2	Sat	Apr 12	Burnley v. Higher Walton	7-0	(at Gigg Lane, Bury)
Final					
Sat, Apr 26, at Thorneyholme Road, Accrington.					
Burnley		2	(Stewart, Hill)		
Blackburn Rovers		0			
Burnley		Kaye; Bury, Lang; McFettridge, Spiers, Keenan; Haresnape, McLardie, Lambie, Stewart, Hill.			
Blackburn Rovers		Horne; Brandon, Forbes; Barton, Dewar, Almond; Lofthouse, Campbell, Southworth, Walton, Townley.			
Referee		CJ Hughes, of Northwich.			
Umpires		M Earlam, of Davenham; and WH Stacey, of Sheffield.			
Attendance		15,000 (receipts £372-3s-6d).			

1890-91			Number of entrants: 18 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round					
1	Sat	Sep 27	Halliwell v. Rossendale	3-6	
2	Sat	Sep 27	Haydock v. Irwell Springs	5-3	
3	Sat	Sep 27	Hurst v. Burnley Union Star	4-5	
Round 1					
1	Tue	Feb 10	Accrington v. Rossendale	7-0	
2	Mon	Feb 2	Bootle v. Blackburn Rovers	1-3	
3	Sat	Feb 7	Burnley v. Darwen	2-3	
4	Mon	Feb 9	Everton v. Burnley Union Star	4-0	
5	Sat	Feb 7	Higher Walton v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	
6	Sat	Feb 7	South Shore v. Haydock	5-0	
7	Sat	Feb 7	Witton v. Newton Heath Preston North End - bye.	3-4	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Feb 21	Bolton Wanderers v. Everton	6-0	
2	Sat	Feb 21	Darwen v. Accrington	2-1	
3	Thu	Feb 19	Preston North End v. Newton Heath	3-1	aet.
4	Sat	Feb 21	South Shore v. Blackburn Rovers	0-10	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Apr 11	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	0-2	(at Hyde Road, Manchester)
2	Sat	Apr 11	Darwen v. Preston North End	2-1	(at Ewood Park, Blackburn)
Final					
Sat, Apr 25, at Anfield Road, Liverpool.					
Bolton Wanderers		3	(Jones, Brogan, Cassidy)		
Darwen		1	(W Marsden)		
Bolton Wanderers		Sutcliffe; Somerville, Jones; Paton, Gardiner, Roberts; Munro, Brogan, Cassidy, McNee, Turner.			
Darwen		McOwen; J Marsden, Leach; Thornber, Owen, Haddow; Nightingale, R Smith, W Marsden, JW Smith, Entwistle.			
Referee		CJ Hughes, of Northwich.			
Umpires		M Earlam, of Davenham; and J Tomlinson, of Sheffield.			
Attendance		7,000 (receipts £228-0s-7d).			

1891-92 and 1892-93

1891-92			Number of entrants: 17 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round					
1	Sat	Sep 26	Witton v. Rossendale	1-4	
			Bury, Heywood Central, South Shore - byes.		
Round 1					
1	Wed	Feb 10	Accrington v. Ardwick	6-0	
2	Sat	Feb 6	Blackburn Rovers v. Higher Walton	2-0	
3	Sat	Feb 6	Bolton Wanderers v. Rossendale	4-1	
4	Sat	Feb 6	Bootle v. Heywood Central	6-0	
5	Sat	Feb 6	Burnley v. Blackpool	6-2	
6	Sat	Feb 6	Darwen v. Preston North End	3-1	
7	Sat	Feb 6	Everton v. South Shore	4-0	
8	Sat	Feb 6	Newton Heath v. Bury	2-3	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Feb 20	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	3-2	
2	Sat	Feb 20	Bury v. Accrington	4-0	
3	Sat	Feb 20	Darwen v. Burnley	1-0	
4	Sat	Feb 20	Everton v. Bootle	3-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Apr 9	Blackburn Rovers v. Darwen	1-1	
	Fri	Apr 15	+ Darwen v. Blackburn Rovers	2-3	
2	Sat	Apr 9	Bury v. Everton	2-0	(at Deepdale, Preston)
Final					
Sat, Apr 23, at Deepdale, Preston.					
Bury		2	(Conway, Spence)		
Blackburn Rovers		0			
Bury		Lowe; Warburton, Cooper; Pemberton, Jobson, Ross; Wilkinson, Spence, Conway, Bourn, Plant.			
Blackburn Rovers		Arthur; McKeown, Forbes; Almond, Dewar, Hall; Walton, Campbell, Southworth, Chippendale, Townley.			
Referee		J Tomlinson, of Sheffield.			
Umpires		JJ Bentley, of Bolton Wanderers FC; and W Sudell, of Preston North End FC.			
Attendance		12,000 (receipts £323-5s-6d).			

1892-93			Number of entrants: 24 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 17	Fleetwood Rangers v. Fairfield	3-1	
2	Sat	Sep 17	Heywood Central v. West Manchester	3-4	aet.
3	Sat	Sep 17	Liverpool v. Southport Central	2-0	
4	Sat	Sep 17	Rossendale v. Nelson	4-2	
			Higher Walton , Liverpool Caledonians, South Shore, Witton - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 8	Fleetwood Rangers v. Higher Walton	3-0	
2	Sat	Oct 8	Liverpool Caledonians v. South Shore	2-3	aet.
3	Sat	Oct 8	West Manchester v. Liverpool	1-3	
4			Rossendale - w/o.		Witton scratched.
Round 1					
1	Sat	Jan 28	Ardwick v. Rossendale	3-2	aet.
2	Mon	Jan 30	Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	1-3	
3	Sat	Jan 28	Blackpool v. Fleetwood Rangers	2-1	
4	Sat	Feb 18	Bolton Wanderers v. Accrington	4-0	
5	Sat	Jan 28	Bury v. Newton Heath	4-0	
6	Sat	Jan 28	Liverpool v. Darwen	1-0	
7	Sat	Jan 28	Preston North End v. Burnley	7-3	
8	Sat	Jan 28	South Shore v. Bootle	1-2	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Mar 11	Ardwick v. Blackpool	3-1	
2	Sat	Mar 11	Bootle v. Liverpool	2-1	
3	Sat	Mar 11	++ Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	1-3	abandoned, result void.
	Mon	Mar 27	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	1-0	
4	Sat	Mar 11	++ Preston North End v. Everton	3-0	result later declared void.
	Thu	Mar 30	Preston North End v. Everton	5-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Apr 8	Bolton Wanderers v. Ardwick	5-1	
2	Sat	Apr 8	Bootle v. Preston North End	4-6	(at Anfield Road, Liverpool)
Final					
Sat, Apr 22, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.					
Preston North End		2	(J Ross 2)		
Bolton Wanderers		0			
Preston North End		Trainer; Holmes, NJ Ross; Greer, Sanders, Stewart; Gordon, J Ross, Drummond, Beckton, Cowan.			
Bolton Wanderers		Sutcliffe; Somerville, Jones; Paton, Gardiner, Turner; Wilson, Cassidy, Weir, Bentley, Dickenson.			
Referee		J Fox, of Sheffield.			
Umpires		RE Lythgoe, of Liverpool; and S Ormerod, of Accrington.			
Attendance		4,000 (receipts £135-7s-10d).			

1893-94 and 1894-95

1893-94			Number of entrants: 22 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 16	Fleetwood Rangers v. Nelson	2-1	
2	Sat	Sep 16	Rossendale v. Higher Walton	11-0	
			Barrow , Fairfield, Heywood Central, South Shore, Southport Central, West Manchester - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 7	Fairfield v. Rossendale	5-6	
2	Sat	Oct 7	Heywood Central v. South Shore	3-0	
3	Sat	Oct 7	Southport Central v. Fleetwood Rangers	0-1	
4	Sat	Oct 7	West Manchester v. Barrow	10-0	
Round 1					
1	Sat	Jan 20	Ardwick v. Rossendale	2-4	
2	Sat	Jan 20	Blackburn Rovers v. Liverpool	4-3	
3	Sat	Jan 20	Blackpool v. Fleetwood Rangers	4-1	
4	Sat	Jan 20	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	4-1	
5	Sat	Jan 20	++ Bury v. Accrington	6-0	result later declared void.
	Tue	Jan 30	Bury v. Accrington	1-2	
6	Sat	Jan 20	Everton v. Newton Heath	7-1	
7	Sat	Jan 20	Heywood Central v. Darwen	1-2	
8	Sat	Jan 20	West Manchester v. Burnley	0-2	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Feb 17	Accrington v. Rossendale	5-0	
2	Mon	Feb 26	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	0-5	
3	Sat	Feb 17	Darwen v. Bolton Wanderers	4-5	
4	Sat	Feb 17	++ Everton v. Burnley	1-2	result later declared void.
	Mon	Feb 26	Everton v. Burnley	5-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Mar 17	Accrington v. Bolton Wanderers	0-1	(at Goodison Park, Liverpool)
2	Sat	Mar 17	Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	3-4	(at Fallowfield, Manchester)
Final					
Sat, Apr 14, at Hyde Road, Manchester.					
Everton		2	(Chadwick, Hartley)		
Bolton Wanderers		1	(Ferguson)		
Everton		Williams; Kelso, Howarth; Boyle, Holt, Stewart; Latta, Hartley, Geary, Chadwick, Milward.			
Bolton Wanderers		Sutcliffe; Somerville, Jones; Weir, Hughes, Turner; Tannahill, Willocks, Cassidy, Ferguson, Bentley.			
Referee		J Lewis, of Blackburn.			
Umpires		S Ormerod, of Accrington; and LM Sinclair, of Manchester.			
Attendance		7,000 (receipts £197-7s-6d).			

1894-95			Number of entrants: 24 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 15	Heywood Central v. Rossendale	1-3	
2	Sat	Sep 15	Nelson v. Stockport County	3-1	
3	Sat	Sep 15	South Shore v. Bacup	0-2	
4	Sat	Sep 15	Southport Central v. West Manchester	1-1	aet.
	Sat	Sep 22	+ West Manchester v. Southport Central	0-2	
			Chorley , Clitheroe, Fairfield, Fleetwood Rangers - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 6	Chorley v. Clitheroe	4-3	
2	Sat	Oct 6	Fairfield v. Fleetwood Rangers	4-0	
3	Sat	Oct 6	Nelson v. Bacup	5-4	
4	Sat	Oct 6	Southport Central v. Rossendale	3-0	
Round 1					
1	Sat	Jan 19	Blackburn Rovers v. Darwen	4-1	
2	Sat	Jan 19	Bolton Wanderers v. Newton Heath	2-1	
3	Sat	Jan 19	Burnley v. Liverpool	0-4	
4	Sat	Jan 19	Bury v. Preston North End	1-3	
5	Sat	Jan 19	Chorley v. Fairfield	1-3	
6	Sat	Jan 19	Everton v. Blackpool	2-0	
7	Tue	Jan 29	Nelson v. Manchester City	1-2	
8	Sat	Jan 19	Southport Central v. Accrington	1-3	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Feb 9	Bolton Wanderers v. Everton	1-3	
2	Sat	Feb 9	Fairfield v. Accrington	0-1	
3	Sat	Feb 9	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1	
4	Sat	Feb 9	Preston North End v. Manchester City	7-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Mar 9	Accrington v. Preston North End	1-6	(at Ewood Park, Blackburn)
2	Sat	Mar 9	Everton v. Liverpool	1-0	
Final					
Sat, Mar 30, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.					
Preston North End		2	(Smith, Orr)		
Everton		0			
Preston North End		Trainer; Dunn, Holmes; Sharp, Sanders, Orr; Henderson, Barr, Smith, Cunningham, Blyth.			
Everton		Cain; Kelso, Arridge; Boyle, Holt, Stewart; Bell, McInnes, Geary, Chadwick, Milward.			
Referee		J Lewis, of Blackburn.			
Attendance		8,000 (receipts £226-16s-3d).			

1895-96			Number of entrants: 25 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 14	Chorley v. Rossendale	4-5	aet.
2	Sat	Sep 14	Fairfield v. South Shore	0-2	
3	Sat	Sep 14	Southport Central v. West Manchester	2-0	
4	Sat	Sep 14	Stalybridge Rovers v. Clitheroe	7-1	
5	Sat	Sep 14	Stockport County v. Bacup	1-5	
			Ashton North End , Fleetwood Rangers, Nelson - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 5	Bacup v. Ashton North End	8-2	
2	Sat	Oct 5	Fleetwood Rangers v. South Shore	5-1	
3	Sat	Nov 9	Nelson v. Stalybridge Rovers	3-2	
4	Mon	Nov 25	Southport Central v. Rossendale	2-1	
Round 1					
1	Sat	Jan 18	Bacup v. Nelson	1-2	
2	Sat	Jan 18	Blackburn Rovers v. Liverpool	2-1	
3	Sat	Jan 18	Blackpool v. Southport Central	2-0	
4	Sat	Jan 18	Bolton Wanderers v. Burnley	1-2	
5	Sat	Jan 18	Darwen v. Accrington	12-0	
6	Sat	Jan 18	Everton v. Fleetwood Rangers	4-1	
7	Sat	Jan 18	Manchester City v. Preston North End	2-1	aet.
8	Sat	Jan 18	Newton Heath v. Bury	1-2	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Feb 8	Darwen v. Bury	1-5	
2	Sat	Feb 8	Everton v. Burnley	1-2	
3	Sat	Feb 8	Manchester City v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	aet.
4	Sat	Feb 8	Nelson v. Blackpool	4-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Mar 14	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	1-1	(at Deepdale, Preston)
	Thu	Mar 19	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	2-1	(at Hyde Road, Manchester)
2	Sat	Mar 14	Bury v. Nelson	1-1	
	Tue	Mar 17	+ Bury v. Nelson	5-1	

Final

Sat, Mar 28, at Burnden Park, Bolton.

Blackburn Rovers	1	(Dewar)
Bury	1	(Plant)
Blackburn Rovers	Ogilvie; Brandon, Murray; Dewar, Anderson, Killean; Haydock, Whitehead, Hargreaves, Wilkie, Turnbull.	
Bury	Montgomery; Barbour, Davidson; Pray, Clegg, Ross; Wyllie, Barr, Millar, Henderson, Plant.	
Referee	A Scragg, of Crewe.	
Attendance	13,000 (receipts £367-3s-4d).	

Final replay

Sat, Apr 18, at Burnden Park, Bolton.

Blackburn Rovers	2	(Wilkie, Hargreaves)
Bury	0	
Blackburn Rovers	Ogilvie; Brandon, Murray; Dewar, Anderson, Killean; Haydock, Whitehead, Hargreaves, Wilkie, Chippendale.	
Bury	Montgomery; Pray, Davidson; Collinson, Clegg, Ross; Wyllie, Fleming, Barbour, Henderson, Plant.	
Referee	J Fox, of Sheffield.	
Attendance	17,597 (receipts £527-3s-10d).	

1896-97			Number of entrants: 25 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 19	Ashton North End v. Southport Central	0-6	
2	Sat	Sep 19	Fairfield v. Halliwell Rovers	2-3	
3	Sat	Sep 19	Fleetwood Rangers v. Stockport County	1-0	
4	Sat	Sep 19	South Shore v. Liverpool South End	3-1	
5	Sat	Sep 19	West Manchester v. Bacup	2-2	aet.
	Tue	Sep 22	+ Bacup v. West Manchester	1-3	
			Chorley, Clitheroe, Rossendale - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 24	Clitheroe v. Chorley	2-4	
2	Sat	Oct 24	Rossendale v. Fleetwood Rangers	0-6	
3	Sat	Oct 24	Southport Central v. Halliwell Rovers	3-1	
4	Sat	Oct 24	West Manchester v. South Shore	2-2	aet.
	Wed	Nov 4	+ South Shore v. West Manchester	0-3	
Round 1					
1	Sat	Dec 5	Bolton Wanderers v. Nelson	3-0	
2	Sat	Dec 5	Burnley v. Blackpool	3-0	
3	Sat	Dec 5	Chorley v. Blackburn Rovers	3-3	
	Wed	Dec 9	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Chorley	2-2	
	Wed	Jan 6	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Chorley	3-1	(at Burnden Park, Bolton)
4	Sat	Dec 5	Everton v. Darwen	5-1	
5	Sat	Dec 5	Liverpool v. Fleetwood Rangers	9-0	
6	Sat	Dec 5	Manchester City v. Bury	1-0	
7	Sat	Dec 5	Newton Heath v. West Manchester	4-1	
8	Sat	Dec 5	Preston North End v. Southport Central	6-0	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Jan 23	Burnley v. Newton Heath	2-1	
2	Sat	Jan 23	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	2-2	
	Mon	Feb 15	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	2-0	
3	Sat	Jan 23	Manchester City v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0	
4	Sat	Jan 23	Preston North End v. Everton	2-3	aet.
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Feb 20	Everton v. Burnley	5-1	
2	Sat	Feb 20	Manchester City v. Bolton Wanderers	2-1	
Final					

Sat, Mar 27, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Everton	2	(Bell, Chadwick)
Manchester City	0	
Everton	Menham; Meechan, Storrier; Boyle, Holt, Stewart; Taylor, Bell, Hartley, Chadwick, Milward.	
Manchester City	Williams; Read, Ray; Moffatt, Holmes, McBride; Meredith, Finnerhan, Gillespie, Gunn, Foster.	
Referee	J Lewis, of Blackburn.	
Attendance	8,000 (receipts £160-13s-6d).	

1897-98			Number of entrants: 26 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 18	Clitheroe v. Horwich	1-0	
2	Sat	Oct 2	Fleetwood Rangers v. South Shore	3-1	
3	Sat	Sep 18	Halliwell Rovers v. Chorley	0-5	
4	Sat	Sep 18	Nelson v. Middleton	2-1	
5	Sat	Sep 18	Wigan County v. Rochdale	2-0	
6			Fairfield - w/o.		Rossendale scratched.
			Bacup, Stalybridge Rovers - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 23	Bacup v. Wigan County	0-1	aet.
2	Sat	Oct 23	Clitheroe v. Nelson	2-5	
3	Sat	Oct 23	Stalybridge Rovers v. Chorley	2-4	
4			Fleetwood Rangers - w/o.		Fairfield scratched.
Round 1					
1	Sat	Dec 4	Blackpool v. Fleetwood Rangers	3-2	
2	Sat	Dec 4	Bolton Wanderers v. Nelson	3-3	
	Tue	Dec 7	+ Nelson v. Bolton Wanderers	0-1	
3	Sat	Dec 4	Bury v. Burnley	4-2	
4	Sat	Dec 4	Chorley v. Blackburn Rovers	3-6	
5	Sat	Dec 4	Everton v. Darwen	3-1	
6	Sat	Dec 4	Manchester City v. Liverpool	3-1	
7	Sat	Dec 4	Newton Heath v. Wigan County	6-0	
8	Sat	Dec 4	Southport Central v. Preston North End	0-4	
Round 2					
1	Sat	Jan 22	Blackpool v. Bury	2-4	
2	Sat	Jan 22	Everton v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	
3	Sat	Jan 22	Newton Heath v. Manchester City	1-0	
4	Sat	Jan 22	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Feb 19	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	2-1	
2	Sat	Feb 19	Bolton Wanderers v. Newton Heath	1-4	(at Hyde Road, Manchester)
Final					
Sat, Mar 26, at Goodison Park, Liverpool.					
Newton Heath			2 (Collinson 2)		
Blackburn Rovers			1 (Proudfoot)		
Newton Heath			Barrett; HB Erentz, FC Erentz; Draycott, McNaught, Cartwright; Bryant, Collinson, Boyd, Cassidy, Gillespie.		
Blackburn Rovers			Carter; Brandon, Killean; Ball, Booth, Chambers; Briercliffe, Blackburn, Proudfoot, Wilkie, Campbell.		
Referee			RE Lythgoe, of Liverpool.		
Attendance			5,000 (receipts £144-12s-9d).		

1898-99			Number of entrants: 22 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 17	Nelson v. Halliwell Rovers	4-1	
2			Middleton - w/o.		Stalybridge Rovers scratched (probably).
			Fleetwood Rangers, Horwich, Rochdale, Southport Central, Stockport County, Wigan County - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Oct 22	Fleetwood Rangers v. Rochdale	1-0	
2	Sat	Oct 22	Middleton v. Southport Central	3-4	
3	Sat	Oct 22	Nelson v. Stockport County	1-1	
	Sat	Nov 5	+ Stockport County v. Nelson	5-3	
4	Sat	Oct 22	Wigan County v. Horwich	3-2	
Round 1					
1	Thu	Dec 15	Blackburn Rovers v. Southport Central	5-2	
2	Mon	Dec 5	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool	1-0	
3	Wed	Dec 14	Chorley v. Burnley	0-1	
4	Mon	Dec 19	Liverpool v. Bury	1-1	
	Tue	Jan 10	+ Bury v. Liverpool	2-1	
5	Mon	Dec 19	Manchester City v. Fleetwood Rangers	6-1	
6	Mon	Dec 19	Newton Heath v. Darwen	5-0	
7	Mon	Dec 19	Preston North End v. South Shore	5-1	
8	Mon	Dec 19	Stockport County v. Wigan County	1-4	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Jan 16	Blackburn Rovers v. Newton Heath	6-1	
2	Sat	Feb 11	Bolton Wanderers v. Burnley	3-2	
3	Wed	Jan 18	Manchester City v. Preston North End	0-2	
4	Wed	Jan 18	Wigan County v. Bury	1-2	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Mar 4	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	
2	Sat	Mar 4	Bury v. Preston North End	4-1	(at Burnden Park, Bolton)
Final					
Sat, Mar 25, at Burnden Park, Bolton.					
Bury			3 (McLuckie, Sagar, Kelly)		
Bolton Wanderers			1 (McAteer)		
Bury			Montgomery; Darroch, Davidson; Pray, Leeming, Ross; Brimblecombe, Settle, McLuckie, Sagar, Kelly.		
Bolton Wanderers			Sutcliffe; Davies, Lockhart; Fitchett, McAteer, Freebairn; Morgan, Gilligan, Brown, Barlow, Jack.		
Referee			J Lewis, of Blackburn.		
Attendance			3,946 (receipts £119-1s-3d).		

1899-1900 and 1900-01

1899-1900			Number of entrants: 18 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round					
1	Sat	Sep 16	South Shore v. Blackpool	1-3	
2	Sat	Sep 16	White Star Wanderers v. Darwen	2-3	
			Middleton, Rochdale - byes.		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Dec 18	Blackburn Rovers v. Middleton	4-1	
2	Sat	Dec 9	Bolton Wanderers v. Newton Heath	1-3	
3	Mon	Dec 18	Burnley v. Everton	2-1	
4	Mon	Dec 18	Bury v. Manchester City	3-0	
5	Tue	Dec 19	Darwen v. Chorley	1-1	
	Tue	Jan 2	+ Chorley v. Darwen	1-1	abandoned during extra time.
	Thu	Jan 4	+ Chorley v. Darwen	0-2	(at Ewood Park, Blackburn)
6	Mon	Dec 18	Preston North End v. Liverpool	2-0	
7	Tue	Dec 19	Rochdale v. Blackpool	1-2	
8	Wed	Dec 20	Wigan County v. Southport Central	2-2	
	Tue	Jan 2	+ Southport Central v. Wigan County	0-0	
	Mon	Jan 8	+ Southport Central v. Wigan County	5-0	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Jan 15	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	0-1	
2	Tue	Jan 16	Darwen v. Burnley	0-5	
3	Mon	Jan 15	Preston North End v. Bury	1-0	
4	Sat	Jan 27	Southport Central v. Newton Heath	1-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Mar 5	Blackpool v. Preston North End	2-2	
	Mon	Mar 12	+ Preston North End v. Blackpool	2-0	
2	Mon	Mar 5	Burnley v. Southport Central	2-0	(at Burnden Park, Bolton)
Final					

Sat, Mar 17, at Deepdale, Preston.

Preston North End	1	(Pierce)
Burnley	0	
Preston North End	McBride; Dunn, Orrell; Eccleston, McIntyre, Elliott; Murray, Smith, Stevenson, Pierce, Henderson.	
Burnley	Hillman; Woolfall, McLintock; Barron, Taylor, Livingstone; Morrison, Bowes, Hartley, Chadwick, Place.	
Referee	J Cooper, of Blackburn.	
Attendance	5,000 (receipts £146-18s-0d).	

1900-01			Number of entrants: 18 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round					
1	Sat	Sep 15	Haydock v. Rochdale	1-1	
			+ Rochdale - w/o.		Haydock scratched.
2	Sat	Sep 15	Nelson v. Stalybridge Rovers	3-2	
			Darwen, White Star Wanderers - byes.		
Round 1					
1	Tue	Oct 2	Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	2-1	
2	Mon	Oct 1	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	5-0	
3	Tue	Oct 2	Bury v. Blackpool	3-0	
4	Mon	Oct 1	Liverpool v. Burnley	0-2	
5	Mon	Oct 1	Manchester City v. Nelson	7-0	
6	Mon	Oct 1	Rochdale v. Chorley	1-0	aet.
7	Mon	Oct 1	Southport Central v. Newton Heath	0-1	
8	Mon	Oct 1	White Star Wanderers v. Darwen	3-1	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 22	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	5-0	
2	Tue	Oct 23	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	0-0	
	Mon	Nov 5	+ Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	0-0	abandoned during extra time.
	Wed	Nov 14	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	3-3	aet 25mins.
	Mon	Dec 3	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	1-1	(at Burnden Park, Bolton)
	Mon	Dec 10	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	3-1	(at Burnden Park, Bolton)
3	Mon	Oct 22	Manchester City v. Newton Heath	2-0	
4	Mon	Oct 22	White Star Wanderers v. Rochdale	3-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Dec 17	Blackburn Rovers v. White Star Wanderers	4-0	
2	Mon	Nov 12	Manchester City v. Burnley	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 26	+ Burnley v. Manchester City	2-1	(at Gigg Lane, Bury)
Final					

Mon, Jan 14, at Hyde Road, Manchester.

Blackburn Rovers	4	(Somers 3, Whittaker)
Burnley	0	
Blackburn Rovers	W Whittaker; Haworth, Hardy; Moir, McClure, Houlker; A Whittaker, Somers, Dewhurst, Morgan, Blackburn.	
Burnley	Collins; Lindsay, Lockhart; Barron, Bannister, Taylor; Morrison, Watkins, Jenkinson, Bowes, Savage.	
Referee	A Scragg, of Crewe.	
Attendance	8,000 (receipts £180-5s-10d).	

1901-02			Number of entrants: 21 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 7	St Helens Town v. Earlestown Barrow , Chorley, Haydock, Nelson, Rochdale Town, Southport Central, Wigan United - byes.	2-0	
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Sep 14	Barrow v. Chorley	2-0	
2	Sat	Sep 14	Nelson v. Haydock	5-1	
3	Sat	Sep 14	Southport Central v. Rochdale Town	3-0	
4	Sat	Sep 14	St Helens Town v. Wigan United	1-1	
	Sat	Sep 21	+ Wigan United v. St Helens Town	1-1	
	Sat	Sep 28	+ St Helens Town v. Wigan United	3-2	
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 30	Barrow v. St Helens Town	6-1	
2	Mon	Sep 30	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	1-4	
3	Mon	Sep 30	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	2-1	
4	Mon	Sep 30	Everton v. White Star Wanderers	6-0	
5	Mon	Sep 30	Liverpool v. Preston North End	2-0	
6	Sat	Sep 28	Manchester City v. Southport Central	0-1	
7	Tue	Oct 1	Nelson v. Newton Heath	0-0	
	Wed	Oct 9	+ Newton Heath v. Nelson	2-0	aet.
8	Tue	Oct 1	Stalybridge Rovers v. Burnley	0-2	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 28	Barrow v. Everton	0-2	
2	Mon	Oct 21	Blackburn Rovers v. Liverpool	2-0	
3	Mon	Oct 21	Bolton Wanderers v. Burnley	1-1	
	Mon	Nov 4	+ Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	3-2	
4	Mon	Oct 21	Southport Central v. Newton Heath	5-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 18	Burnley v. Southport Central	1-0	
2	Mon	Nov 11	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	
Final					
Mon, Dec 2, at Hyde Road, Manchester. Blackburn Rovers 1 (Whittaker) Burnley 0 Blackburn Rovers McIver; Crompton, Hardy; Haworth, McClure, Houlker; Whittaker, Somers, Dewhurst, Morgan, Blackburn. Burnley Hillman; Ross, McLintock; Barron, Taylor, Stewart; Morrison, Brunton, Sawley, Davidson, Savage. Referee T Helme, of Bolton. Attendance 4,000 (receipts £96-1s-0d).					

1902-03			Number of entrants: 22 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 13	Earlestown v. White Star Wanderers	12-1	
2	Sat	Sep 13	Rochdale Town v. St Helens Town	1-1	
	Thu	Sep 18	+ St Helens Town v. Rochdale Town	2-2	aet.
			+ Rochdale Town - w/o.		St Helens Town scratched.
			Accrington Stanley, Barrow, Glossop, Nelson,		
			St Helens Recreation, Stalybridge Rovers - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Sep 13	Accrington Stanley v. St Helens Recreation	4-1	
2	Sat	Sep 27	Earlestown v. Stalybridge Rovers	1-1	
	Tue	Sep 30	+ Stalybridge Rovers v. Earlestown	3-0	
3	Tue	Sep 16	Nelson v. Glossop	0-3	
4	Tue	Sep 23	Rochdale Town v. Barrow	2-4	
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 29	Accrington Stanley v. Manchester City	2-5	
2	Mon	Sep 29	Barrow v. Bolton Wanderers	2-4	
3	Mon	Sep 29	Blackburn Rovers v. Southport Central	1-0	
4	Mon	Sep 29	Blackpool v. Liverpool	0-0	
	Mon	Oct 6	+ Liverpool v. Blackpool	3-3	aet.
	Mon	Oct 13	+ Blackpool v. Liverpool	1-1	(at Hyde Road, Manchester), abandoned during extra time.
	Mon	Oct 20	+ Blackpool v. Liverpool	3-2	(at Deepdale, Preston)
5	Mon	Oct 6	Burnley v. Stalybridge Rovers	5-0	
6	Mon	Sep 29	Bury v. Chorley	6-0	
7	Mon	Sep 29	Everton v. Glossop	3-2	
8	Mon	Sep 29	Manchester United v. Preston North End	1-3	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 27	Blackpool v. Preston North End	0-0	
	Mon	Nov 3	+ Preston North End v. Blackpool	5-0	
2	Mon	Oct 20	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	
3	Mon	Oct 20	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	2-2	
	Mon	Oct 27	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	1-2	
4	Mon	Oct 27	Manchester City v. Everton	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 10	+ Everton v. Manchester City	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 17	+ Manchester City v. Everton	0-3	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Jan 26	Bury v. Preston North End	3-1	(at Ewood Park, Blackburn)
2	Sat	Jan 19	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	3-0	

Final

Mon, Apr 27, at Gigg Lane, Bury.

Bury	1 (Leeming)
Everton	0
Bury	Montgomery; Lindsay, McEwan; Johnston, Thorpe, Ross; Gray, Lamberton, Richards, Leeming, Plant.
Everton	Whitley; W Balmer, R Balmer; Wolstenholme, Booth, Abbott; Sharp, Taylor, Dilly, Sheridan, Bell.
Referee	J Lewis, of Blackburn.
Attendance	7,032 (receipts £206-1s-3d).

1903-04			Number of entrants: 28 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Nov 28	Bacup v. Stalybridge Rovers	3-2	
2	Sat	Nov 28	Barrow v. Darwen	8-1	
3	Sat	Nov 28	Chorley v. Rossendale United	4-1	
4	Sat	Nov 28	Colne v. Skelmersdale United	4-1	
5	Sat	Nov 28	Nelson v. Padiham	2-0	
6	Sat	Nov 28	St Helens Recreation v. Black Lane Temperance	4-1	abandoned, result stands.
7	Sat	Nov 28	St Helens Town v. Heywood	3-2	
8	Sat	Nov 28	Turton v. Oswaldtwistle Rovers	1-2	
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Dec 12	Barrow v. Nelson	2-2	
	Thu	Dec 17	+ Nelson v. Barrow	3-0	
2	Sat	Dec 12	Chorley v. Colne	4-2	
3	Sat	Dec 12	St Helens Recreation v. Oswaldtwistle Rovers	1-0	
4	Sat	Dec 12	St Helens Town v. Bacup	5-0	
Round 1					
1	Sat	Jan 9	Accrington Stanley v. Manchester United	2-2	
	Wed	Jan 13	+ Manchester United v. Accrington Stanley	2-1	
2	Mon	Jan 18	Burnley v. Manchester City	2-1	
3	Sat	Jan 9	++ Chorley v. Blackpool	3-1	result later declared void.
	Mon	Jan 18	Blackpool v. Chorley	2-0	(at Deepdale, Preston)
4	Sat	Jan 9	Nelson v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2	
	Sat	Jan 16	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Nelson	6-1	
5	Sat	Jan 9	Preston North End v. Liverpool	3-1	
6	Sat	Jan 9	Southport Central v. Bury	6-1	
7	Sat	Jan 9	St Helens Recreation v. Everton	0-1	
8	Sat	Jan 9	St Helens Town v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1	
	Wed	Jan 13	+ Bolton Wanderers v. St Helens Town	0-1	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Jan 25	Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	5-1	
2	Mon	Jan 25	Manchester United v. Blackpool	2-1	
3	Mon	Jan 25	Preston North End v. Burnley	5-1	
4	Sat	Jan 23	St Helens Town v. Southport Central	0-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	Feb 27	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	
	Mon	Mar 21	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester United	1-0	
2	Sat	Feb 27	Southport Central v. Preston North End	3-2	
Final					
Mon, Mar 28, at Deepdale, Preston.					
Blackburn Rovers		2	(Watson 2)		
Southport Central		1	(Dawson)		
Blackburn Rovers		McIver; Crompton, Riley; Smith, McClure, Bradshaw; Monks, Bowman, Dewhurst, Watson, Blackburn.			
Southport Central		Garvey; Spink, Nightingale; Sinclair, Turner, FH Chorlton; JG Chorlton, Shadbolt, Dawson, Lawson, Craven.			
Referee		AS Barker, of Hanley.			
Attendance		1,500 (receipts £51-15s-9d).			

1904-05			Number of entrants: 26 (12 clubs exempted to Round 1).		
Qualifying Round 1					
1	Sat	Sep 10	Bacup v. Nelson	0-2	
2	Sat	Sep 10	Chorley v. Padiham	5-3	
3	Sat	Sep 10	Darwen v. Oswaldtwistle Rovers	1-1	
	Wed	Sep 14	+ Oswaldtwistle Rovers v. Darwen	3-4	
4	Sat	Sep 10	St Helens Town v. Colne	2-0	
5			Black Lane Temperance - w/o.		Glossop scratched.
6			Rossendale United - w/o.		Heywood scratched.
			Barrow, Earlestown - byes.		
Qualifying Round 2					
1	Sat	Sep 24	Chorley v. Darwen	0-0	
	Tue	Sep 27	+ Darwen v. Chorley	3-0	
2	Sat	Sep 24	Earlestown v. St Helens Town	2-0	
3	Sat	Sep 24	Nelson v. Black Lane Temperance	10-3	
4	Sat	Sep 24	Rossendale United v. Barrow	1-0	
Round 1					
1	Mon	Oct 10	Accrington Stanley v. Preston North End	1-1	
	Mon	Oct 17	+ Preston North End v. Accrington Stanley	3-1	
2	Mon	Oct 10	Blackpool v. Southport Central	1-2	
3	Mon	Oct 10	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	4-2	
4	Mon	Oct 10	Everton v. Darwen	3-2	
5	Mon	Oct 10	Liverpool v. Burnley	7-1	
6	Mon	Oct 10	Manchester City v. Bury	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 21	++ Bury v. Manchester City	0-0	abandoned, result void.
	Wed	Nov 23	+ Bury v. Manchester City	4-3	
7	Tue	Oct 11	Nelson v. Blackburn Rovers	1-4	
8	Mon	Oct 10	Rossendale United v. Earlestown	0-0	
	Mon	Oct 17	+ Earlestown v. Rossendale United	1-0	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Jan 9	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	5-1	
2	Mon	Oct 24	Everton v. Preston North End	2-1	
3	Mon	Nov 7	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	5-1	
4	Mon	Oct 24	Southport Central v. Earlestown	6-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Feb 13	Everton v. Bolton Wanderers	2-1	
2	Sat	Jan 14	Southport Central v. Liverpool	2-0	
Final					
Tue, Mar 28, at Haig Avenue, Southport.					
Southport Central			2 (Lawson, Smith)		
Everton			1 (Dilly)		
Southport Central			Dent; Spink, Rimmer; Sinclair, Edmunds, FH Chorlton; Dawson, Shadbolt, Smith, Lawson, Danson.		
Everton			Scott; R Balmer, Wildman; Ashworth, Booth, Chadwick; Rankin, McLaughlin, Roberts, Caldwell, Dilly.		
Referee			J Lewis, of Blackburn.		
Attendance			5,000 (receipts £89-18s-2d).		

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

Lancashire Cup.

SEMI-FINAL TIE, TO BE PLAYED AT SOUTHPORT, ON JANUARY 14th, 1905.

Southport Central v. Liverpool.

Complimentary Ticket,

Semi-final ticket 1904-05

1905-06			Number of entrants: 16.		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 18	Accrington Stanley v. Nelson	6-2	
2	Mon	Sep 18	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester United	2-1	
3	Mon	Sep 18	Bolton Wanderers v. Burnley	4-0	
4	Mon	Sep 18	Liverpool v. Bury	0-2	
5	Mon	Sep 18	Manchester City v. Darwen	2-1	
6	Mon	Sep 18	Rossendale United v. Blackpool	2-2	
	Mon	Sep 25	+ Blackpool v. Rossendale United	2-1	
7	Tue	Sep 26	Southport Central v. Preston North End	0-3	
8	Thu	Sep 21	St Helens Recreation v. Everton	3-2	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 2	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	5-2	
2	Mon	Oct 2	Bury v. Preston North End	2-0	
3	Wed	Oct 4	Manchester City v. Accrington Stanley	2-3	
4	Mon	Oct 2	St Helens Recreation v. Blackpool	1-1	
	Mon	Oct 9	+ Blackpool v. St Helens Recreation	1-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Oct 16	Accrington Stanley v. Blackpool	2-2	(at Deepdale, Preston)
	Mon	Nov 6	+ Accrington Stanley v. Blackpool	1-0	(at Deepdale, Preston)
2	Mon	Oct 16	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	2-1	
Final					

Mon, Nov 20, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Bury	4	(Dow 2, Williams 2)
Accrington Stanley	0	
Bury	Wolstenholme; Lindsay, Leeming; Chorlton, Humphreys, Johnston; Richards, Williams, Swann, Dow, Murphy.	
Accrington Stanley	Turner; Hampson, Shaw; Rigby, Bradshaw, Brindle; Smith, Dempsey, Brunton, Morris, Stott.	
Referee	JT Howcroft, of Bolton.	
Attendance	7,000 (receipts £146-17s-9d).	

1906-07			Number of entrants: 22 (11 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Preliminary Round					
1	Mon	Sep 10	Oldham Athletic v. Northern Nomads	6-2	
Round 1					
1	Tue	Sep 18	Darwen v. Oldham Athletic	0-0	
	Tue	Sep 25	+ Oldham Athletic v. Darwen	0-0	
	Mon	Oct 1	+ Oldham Athletic v. Darwen	1-2	
2	Tue	Sep 18	Nelson v. Colne	1-3	
3	Mon	Sep 17	Southport Central v. Atherton	2-0	
4	Mon	Sep 17	St Helens Recreation v. Rossendale United	1-1	
	Mon	Sep 24	+ Rossendale United v. St Helens Recreation	3-1	
5	Mon	Sep 17	Stalybridge Rovers v. Barrow	4-1	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 1	Accrington Stanley v. Rossendale United	2-2	
	Mon	Oct 8	+ Rossendale United v. Accrington Stanley	7-1	
2	Mon	Oct 8	Blackpool v. Everton	3-0	
3	Mon	Oct 1	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	4-3	
4	Mon	Oct 1	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	0-2	
5	Mon	Oct 1	Colne v. Preston North End	1-4	
6	Mon	Oct 1	Liverpool v. Manchester United	4-1	abandoned, result stands.
7	Mon	Oct 1	Southport Central v. Burnley	2-0	
8	Tue	Oct 9	Stalybridge Rovers v. Darwen	0-2	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 15	Blackburn Rovers v. Southport Central	8-1	
2	Mon	Oct 15	Blackpool v. Preston North End	1-3	
3	Mon	Oct 15	Bolton Wanderers v. Darwen	3-0	
4	Mon	Oct 15	Liverpool v. Rossendale United	6-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 5	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	2-0	(at Bank Street, Manchester)
2	Mon	Nov 5	Liverpool v. Preston North End	4-1	
Final					

Mon, Nov 26, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Blackburn Rovers	3	(Martin 2, Robertson)
Liverpool	0	
Blackburn Rovers	Evans; Cameron, Cowell; Wolstenholme, Wilson, Bradshaw; Whittaker, Robertson, Martin, Bracegirdle, Chadwick.	
Liverpool	Hardy; Griffiths, Saul; Chorlton, Raisbeck, Bradley; Goddard, Robinson, Parkinson, McPherson, Carlin.	
Referee	D Hammond, of Heywood.	
Attendance	10,000 (receipts £237-13s-0d).	

1907-08 and 1908-09

1907-08			Number of entrants: 20 (12 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 16	Barrow v. Rossendale United	1-0	
2	Mon	Sep 16	Earlestown v. Darwen	1-2	
3	Mon	Sep 16	Southport Central v. Atherton	2-3	
4	Mon	Sep 16	St Helens Recreation v. Chorley	5-0	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Sep 30	Atherton v. Oldham Athletic	1-1	
	Tue	Oct 8	+ Oldham Athletic v. Atherton	7-0	
2	Mon	Sep 30	Barrow v. Accrington Stanley	3-2	
3	Mon	Sep 30	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	3-4	
4	Mon	Sep 30	Blackpool v. St Helens Recreation	0-4	
5	Tue	Oct 1	Darwen v. Preston North End	0-3	
6	Mon	Sep 30	Everton v. Burnley	1-4	
7	Mon	Sep 23	Liverpool v. Bury	1-0	
8	Mon	Sep 23	Manchester City v. Manchester United	0-3	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 14	Burnley v. Liverpool	0-2	
2	Mon	Oct 14	Manchester United v. Bolton Wanderers	2-0	
3	Mon	Oct 14	Oldham Athletic v. St Helens Recreation	2-0	
4	Mon	Oct 14	Preston North End v. Barrow	4-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 4	Liverpool v. Preston North End	1-2	
2	Mon	Oct 28	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	1-3	(at Hyde Road, Manchester)
Final					
Mon, Nov 25, at Hyde Road, Manchester.					
Oldham Athletic		2	(Hesham, Newton)		
Preston North End		0			
Oldham Athletic		Hewitson; Hodson, Hamilton; Fay, Bottomley, Wilson; Hesham, Dodds, Newton, Hancock, Watts.			
Preston North End		McBride; Derbyshire, Rodway; Stringfellow, Hunter, Lyon; Lockett, Carlin, Wilson, Bell, Barlow.			
Referee		TP Campbell, of Blackburn.			
Attendance		8,000 (receipts £200-8s-3d).			

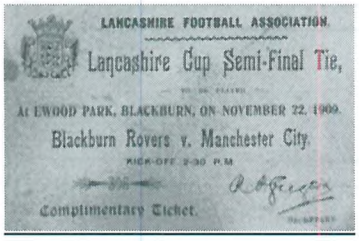
1908-09			Number of entrants: 19 (12 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Wed	Sep 30	Accrington Stanley v. St Helens Recreation	0-0	
	Mon	Oct 5	+ Accrington Stanley v. St Helens Recreation	0-1	
2	Tue	Sep 29	Darwen v. Colne	2-2	
	Mon	Oct 5	+ Colne v. Darwen	5-1	
3	Mon	Sep 28	Nelson v. Atherton	3-0	
			Southport Central - bye.		
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 12	Blackpool v. Rossendale United	2-2	
	Mon	Oct 19	+ Rossendale United v. Blackpool	0-4	
2	Mon	Oct 12	Bury v. Colne	2-2	
	Mon	Oct 19	+ Colne v. Bury	2-4	
3	Mon	Oct 12	Everton v. Burnley	4-1	
4	Mon	Oct 12	Manchester City v. Preston North End	1-0	
5	Mon	Oct 12	Manchester United v. Bolton Wanderers	3-0	
6	Mon	Oct 12	Nelson v. Liverpool	2-4	
7	Mon	Oct 12	Oldham Athletic v. Blackburn Rovers	2-4	
8	Thu	Oct 15	St Helens Recreation v. Southport Central	0-2	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 26	Blackpool v. Everton	0-2	
2	Mon	Oct 26	Liverpool v. Bury	2-1	
3	Mon	Oct 26	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	
4	Mon	Oct 26	Southport Central v. Manchester City	1-2	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 23	Everton v. Liverpool	0-2	
2	Mon	Nov 23	Manchester City v. Blackburn Rovers	3-3	
	Mon	Dec 7	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester City	7-0	
Final					
Mon, Dec 14, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.					
Blackburn Rovers		5	(Chorlton(og), Garbutt, Latheron, Davies, Kyle)		
Liverpool		3	(Bowyer, Orr 2)		
Blackburn Rovers		Ashcroft; Crompton, Cowell; Ferguson, Chapman, Bradshaw; Garbutt, Latheron, Davies, Kyle, Anthony.			
Liverpool		Sloan; Chorlton, Dunlop; Parry, Harrop, Bradley; Parkinson, Goode, Hewitt, Orr, Bowyer.			
Referee		R Horrocks, of Farnworth.			
Attendance		14,000 (receipts £261-12s-8d).			

1909-10			Number of entrants: 18 (13 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 27	Accrington Stanley v. Colne	2-0	
2	Mon	Sep 27	Southport Central v. St Helens Town	4-1	
			Chorley - bye.		
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 11	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester United	3-0	
2	Mon	Oct 11	Bolton Wanderers v. Oldham Athletic	1-2	
3	Mon	Oct 11	Bury v. Everton	1-3	
4	Wed	Oct 13	Chorley v. Burnley	2-3	
5	Mon	Oct 11	Liverpool v. St Helens Recreation	4-4	
	Mon	Oct 18	+ Liverpool v. St Helens Recreation	1-3	
6	Tue	Oct 19	Nelson v. Accrington Stanley	0-0	
	Mon	Oct 25	+ Accrington Stanley v. Nelson	2-0	
7	Mon	Oct 11	Preston North End v. Blackpool	0-3	
8	Mon	Oct 11	Southport Central v. Manchester City	0-3	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Nov 1	Accrington Stanley v. St Helens Recreation	3-3	
	Mon	Nov 8	+ St Helens Recreation v. Accrington Stanley	3-0	
2	Mon	Oct 25	Everton v. Blackpool	6-2	
3	Mon	Oct 25	Manchester City v. Burnley	4-1	
4	Mon	Oct 25	Oldham Athletic v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 1	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Oldham Athletic	5-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 22	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester City	4-1	
2	Mon	Nov 22	St Helens Recreation v. Everton	0-2	

Final

Mon, Dec 13, at Goodison Park, Liverpool.

Everton	4 (Coleman, Freeman, Sharp, White)
Blackburn Rovers	0
Everton	Scott; Clifford, Balmer; Harris, Borthwick, Makepeace; Sharp, Coleman, Freeman, White, Young.
Blackburn Rovers	Murray; Suttie, Cowell; Walmsley, Chapman, Bradshaw; Garbutt, Latheron, E Crompton, Aitkenhead, Bracegirdle.
Referee	EA Pellowe, of Oldham.
Attendance	10,000 (receipts £246-3s-3d).


LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.
Lancashire Cup Semi-Final Tie,
AT LEWOOD PARK, BLACKBURN, ON NOVEMBER 22, 1909.
Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester City.
KICK-OFF 2-30 P.M.
Complimentary Ticket.

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.
Lancashire Cup Semi-Final Tie,
GOODISON PARK, LIVERPOOL, ON NOVEMBER 22, 1909.
Everton v. St. Helens Recreation.
KICK-OFF 2-30 P.M.
Complimentary Ticket.

Semi-final and Final tickets from 1909-10

1910-11

1910-11			Number of entrants: 18 (13 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Tue	Sep 27	Rochdale v. Colne	2-0	
2	Mon	Sep 26	Southport Central v. Nelson	0-3	
			Accrington Stanley - bye.		
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 10	Accrington Stanley v. Oldham Athletic	1-1	
	Tue	Oct 18	+ Oldham Athletic v. Accrington Stanley	4-1	
2	Mon	Oct 10	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	4-1	
3	Mon	Oct 10	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	3-2	
4	Mon	Oct 10	Burnley v. Rochdale	1-0	
5	Wed	Oct 12	Chorley v. St Helens Recreation	0-2	
6	Mon	Oct 10	Liverpool v. Everton	0-1	
7	Mon	Oct 10	Manchester City v. Blackpool	0-2	
8	Mon	Oct 10	Manchester United v. Nelson	8-0	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 24	Blackpool v. Everton	2-4	
2	Mon	Oct 24	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	0-4	
3	Mon	Oct 24	Burnley v. St Helens Recreation	3-0	
4	Mon	Oct 24	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	0-0	
	Tue	Nov 8	+ Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	0-3	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 21	Burnley v. Manchester United	0-0	(at Deepdale, Preston)
	Wed	Nov 30	+ Burnley v. Manchester United	1-0	(at Gigg Lane, Bury)
2	Mon	Nov 21	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	1-6	

Final

Mon, Dec 12, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Blackburn Rovers	1	(Davies)
Burnley	1	(Smith)
Blackburn Rovers	Ashcroft; Crompton, Suttie; Walmsley, Smith, Bradshaw; Garbutt, Latheron, Davies, Aitkenhead, Anthony.	
Burnley	Dawson; Barron, Reid; Moffat, Swift, Watson; Morley, Green, Smith, Bates, Harris.	
Referee	Rev. JW Marsh, of Bury.	
Attendance	5,000 (receipts £168-7s-9d).	

Final replay

Mon, Jan 23, at Turf Moor, Burnley. Extra time played.

Burnley	2	(Bates(pen), Morley)
Blackburn Rovers	2	(Aitkenhead, Anthony)
Burnley	Dawson; Reid, Bamford; Seeburg, Swift, Watson; Morley, Green, Bates, Mayson, Harris.	
Blackburn Rovers	Ashcroft; Crompton, Suttie; Walmsley, Smith, Bradshaw; Orr, Latheron, Davies, Aitkenhead, Anthony.	
Referee	Rev. JW Marsh, of Bury.	
Attendance	7,000 (receipts £210-17s-7d).	

Final 2nd replay

Mon, Apr 3, at Burnden Park, Bolton. No extra time.

Blackburn Rovers	0
Burnley	0
Blackburn Rovers	Ashcroft; Crompton, Suttie; Walmsley, Smith, Anderson; Orr, Latheron, Davies, Aitkenhead, Bradshaw.
Burnley	Tillotson; Reid, Bamford; Dodd, Swift, Watson; Seeburg, Green, Bates, Lindley, Mayson.
Referee	J Kenny, of Preston.
Attendance	10,000 (receipts £249-14s-0d).

Final 3rd replay

Tue, Apr 18, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Blackburn Rovers	2	(Davies, Latheron)
Burnley	1	(Bates)
Blackburn Rovers	Ashcroft; Crompton, Suttie; Walmsley, Smith, Bradshaw; Orr, Latheron, Davies, Aitkenhead, Anthony.	
Burnley	Dawson; Reid, Bamford; Seeburg, Swift, Watson; Morley, Green, Bates, Lindley, Mayson.	
Referee	J Kenny, of Preston.	
Attendance	10,000 (receipts £308-2s-9d).	

1911-12 and 1912-13

1911-12			Number of entrants: 21 (11 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 4	Bacup v. Southport Central	2-1	
2	Tue	Sep 19	Nelson v. Accrington Stanley	2-1	
3	Tue	Sep 19	Rochdale v. Barrow	1-2	
4	Sat	Sep 9	St Helens Recreation v. Colne	3-0	
5	Mon	Sep 25	St Helens Town v. Chorley	3-1	
Round 2					
1	Tue	Oct 10	Bacup v. Manchester United	1-5	
2	Mon	Oct 2	Barrow v. St Helens Recreation	5-2	
3	Mon	Oct 9	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	3-1	
4	Mon	Oct 9	Burnley v. St Helens Town	7-0	
5	Mon	Oct 9	Bury v. Manchester City	4-0	
6	Tue	Oct 10	Nelson v. Bolton Wanderers	2-4	
7	Mon	Oct 9	Oldham Athletic v. Liverpool	5-2	
8	Mon	Oct 9	Preston North End v. Everton	1-4	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 23	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	6-0	
2	Mon	Oct 23	Bolton Wanderers v. Barrow	1-0	
3	Mon	Oct 23	Manchester United v. Everton	2-1	
4	Mon	Oct 23	Oldham Athletic v. Burnley	1-3	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 20	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	1-3	
2	Mon	Nov 20	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	2-1	
Final					
Wed, Dec 13, at Burnden Park, Bolton.					
Bolton Wanderers		4	(Smith, Bentley 2, Barber)		
Burnley		1	(Bates)		
Bolton Wanderers		Newton; Baverstock, Feebury; Barber, Fay, Whiteside; Stokes, Hilton, Bentley, Smith, Vizard.			
Burnley		Dawson; Reid, Splitt; McLaren, Boyle, Watson; Snowdon, Lindley, Freeman, Bates, Harris.			
Referee		A Briggs, of Blackburn.			
Attendance		11,000 (receipts £371-6s-9d).			

1912-13			Number of entrants: 21 (11 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 2	Barrow v. St Helens Town	5-1	
2	Tue	Sep 24	Colne v. Southport Central	0-1	
3	Tue	Sep 24	Nelson v. Eccles Borough	4-2	
4	Mon	Sep 23	Rochdale v. Accrington Stanley	3-1	
5	Mon	Sep 23	St Helens Recreation v. Rossendale United	2-0	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 7	Barrow v. Rochdale	2-1	
2	Mon	Oct 7	Bolton Wanderers v. Southport Central	2-1	
3	Mon	Oct 7	Bury v. Burnley	3-0	
4	Mon	Oct 7	Liverpool v. Preston North End	0-0	
	Mon	Oct 21	+ Preston North End v. Liverpool	5-1	
5	Mon	Oct 7	Manchester City v. Everton	0-0	
	Wed	Oct 16	+ Everton v. Manchester City	4-2	aet.
6	Tue	Oct 8	Nelson v. Blackburn Rovers	0-8	
7	Tue	Oct 8	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	3-3	
	Mon	Oct 14	+ Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	4-1	
8	Mon	Oct 7	St Helens Recreation v. Blackpool	0-0	
	Mon	Oct 14	+ Blackpool v. St Helens Recreation	3-1	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 28	Blackpool v. Preston North End	1-0	
2	Mon	Oct 21	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	0-3	
3	Tue	Oct 29	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	
4	Mon	Oct 21	Manchester City v. Barrow	2-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 11	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester City	6-1	
2	Mon	Nov 18	Blackpool v. Manchester United	0-0	(at Ewood Park, Blackburn)
	Mon	Dec 2	+ Blackpool v. Manchester United	0-5	(at Ewood Park, Blackburn)
Final					
Mon, Dec 9, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.					
Manchester United		3	(Anderson 2, Robinson(og))		
Blackburn Rovers		2	(McGhie, Simpson)		
Manchester United		Beale; Linkson, Stacey; Duckworth, Whalley, Bell; Sheldon, Turnbull, Anderson, West, Wall.			
Blackburn Rovers		Robinson; Crompton, Cowell; Walmsley, Smith, Cameron; Simpson, Latheron, Orr, McGhie, Anthony.			
Referee		HT Yates, of Bolton.			
Attendance		8,000 (receipts £233-15s-11d).			

1913-14 and 1914-15

1913-14			Number of entrants: 21 (11 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 1	Barrow v. Accrington Stanley	4-0	
2	Wed	Sep 24	Eccles Borough v. Southport Central	2-0	
3	Mon	Sep 22	Fleetwood v. South Liverpool	1-2	
4	Tue	Sep 23	Nelson v. Rochdale	1-3	
5	Mon	Sep 22	St Helens Town v. Haslingden	5-2	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 6	Blackpool v. South Liverpool	2-0	
2	Mon	Oct 6	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	3-1	
3	Mon	Oct 6	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	3-0	
4	Mon	Oct 6	Bury v. Manchester United	1-1	
	Mon	Oct 13	+ Manchester United v. Bury	2-1	
5	Mon	Oct 6	Eccles Borough v. Manchester City	0-3	
6	Mon	Oct 6	Liverpool v. Oldham Athletic	1-0	
7	Mon	Oct 6	Rochdale v. Barrow	2-0	
8	Mon	Oct 6	St Helens Town v. Everton	1-0	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 20	Blackpool v. St Helens Town	6-0	
2	Mon	Oct 20	Burnley v. Manchester City	1-2	
3	Mon	Oct 20	Liverpool v. Manchester United	1-3	
4	Mon	Oct 20	Rochdale v. Bolton Wanderers	3-2	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 10	Blackpool v. Rochdale	4-1	(at Ewood Park, Blackburn)
2	Mon	Nov 10	Manchester City v. Manchester United	1-1	
	Mon	Nov 24	+ Manchester City v. Manchester United	1-2	
Final					
Mon, Dec 8, at Burnden Park, Bolton.					
Manchester United		1	(Cashmore)		
Blackpool		0			
Manchester United		Beale; Hodge, Stacey; Gipps, Knowles, Hamill; Meredith, Turnbull, Anderson, Cashmore, West.			
Blackpool		Fiske; Robson, Jones; Bainbridge, Connor, Booth; Pagnam, Sharp, Charles, Buchan, Quinn.			
Referee		W Chadwick, of Blackburn.			
Attendance		2,457 (receipts £81-14s-6d).			

1914-15			Number of entrants: 21 (11 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 21	Accrington Stanley v. Nelson	0-3	
2	Wed	Sep 23	Chorley v. Eccles Borough	2-4	
3	Wed	Sep 23	Fleetwood v. Rochdale	2-3	
4	Mon	Sep 21	South Liverpool v. Southport Central	5-0	
5			Heywood United - w/o.		Barrow scratched.
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 5	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	4-2	
2	Mon	Oct 5	Burnley v. Manchester United	5-0	
3	Wed	Oct 7	Everton v. Bury	1-1	
	Tue	Oct 13	+ Bury v. Everton	1-4	
4	Mon	Oct 5	Manchester City v. Liverpool	3-6	
5	Mon	Oct 5	Oldham Athletic v. Heywood United	3-2	
6	Mon	Oct 5	Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	1-0	
7	Mon	Oct 5	Rochdale v. Nelson	3-2	
8	Wed	Oct 7	South Liverpool v. Eccles Borough	4-1	
Round 3					
1	Wed	Oct 21	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	1-3	
2	Mon	Oct 19	Liverpool v. Burnley	1-5	
3	Mon	Oct 19	Oldham Athletic v. Preston North End	3-0	
4	Tue	Oct 20	Rochdale v. South Liverpool	2-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Nov 9	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1	
2	Mon	Nov 9	Oldham Athletic v. Rochdale	0-2	(at Gigg Lane, Bury)
Final					
Mon, Dec 7, at Hyde Road, Manchester.					
Burnley		4	(Pickering 2, Kelly, Hodgson)		
Rochdale		1	(Smith)		
Burnley		Dawson; Bamford, Taylor; Thorpe, Hampson, Watson; Kelly, Lindley, Pickering, Hodgson, Nesbitt.			
Rochdale		Biggar; Barton, Lilley; Tully, Milnes, Kay; Rawlings, Kelly, Brown, Neave, Smith.			
Referee		H Churnside, of Bolton.			
Attendance		2,000 (receipts £43-2s-0d).			

1918-19		Number of entrants: 16.		
Section A				
Wed	Dec 25	Burnley v. Blackpool	5-1	
Sat	Feb 8	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	0-1	
Sat	Feb 15	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	
Sat	Apr 5	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	1-1	
Sat	Apr 5	Preston North End v. Burnley	1-0	
Sat	Apr 12	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	6-1	
Sat	Apr 12	Burnley v. Preston North End	1-3	
Fri	Apr 18	Blackpool v. Burnley	0-0	
Sat	Apr 19	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	2-4	
Sat	Apr 19	Blackpool v. Preston North End	3-0	
Sat	Apr 26	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	5-1	
Sat	Apr 26	Preston North End v. Blackpool	0-2	

Section A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackpool	6	3	2	1	13	7	8
Burnley	6	3	1	2	15	8	7
Preston North End	6	3	1	2	6	7	7
Blackburn Rovers	6	0	2	4	6	18	2

Section B				
Sat	Oct 5	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	1-5	
Sat	Oct 12	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	3-1	
Sat	Apr 5	Bury v. Rochdale	0-3	
Sat	Apr 5	Oldham Athletic v. Bolton Wanderers	4-1	
Sat	Apr 12	Bolton Wanderers v. Oldham Athletic	3-1	
Sat	Apr 12	Rochdale v. Bury	0-2	
Fri	Apr 18	Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	0-2	
Sat	Apr 19	Bury v. Oldham Athletic	0-1	
Sat	Apr 19	Rochdale v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	
Mon	Apr 21	Oldham Athletic v. Rochdale	5-0	
Sat	Apr 26	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	2-1	
Sat	Apr 26	Oldham Athletic v. Bury	4-0	

Section B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oldham Athletic	6	5	0	1	17	4	10
Bolton Wanderers	6	5	0	1	16	9	10
Rochdale	6	1	0	5	5	13	2
Bury	6	1	0	5	4	16	2

Section C				
Sat	Apr 5	Manchester City v. Stoke	1-0	
Sat	Apr 5	Port Vale v. Manchester United	1-3	
Sat	Apr 12	Manchester United v. Port Vale	2-1	
Sat	Apr 12	Stoke v. Manchester City	1-1	
Fri	Apr 18	Manchester City v. Manchester United	3-0	
Sat	Apr 19	Manchester United v. Stoke	0-1	
Sat	Apr 19	Port Vale v. Manchester City	0-1	
Mon	Apr 21	Manchester United v. Manchester City	2-4	
Mon	Apr 21	Stoke v. Port Vale	2-2	
Sat	Apr 26	Manchester City v. Port Vale	4-1	
Sat	Apr 26	Stoke v. Manchester United	4-2	
Mon	Apr 28	Port Vale v. Stoke	4-1	

Section C - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester City	6	5	1	0	14	4	11
Stoke	6	2	2	2	9	10	6
Manchester United	6	2	0	4	9	14	4
Port Vale	6	1	1	4	9	13	3

Section D				
Wed	Jan 1	Everton v. Liverpool	1-2	
Sat	Apr 5	Liverpool v. Southport Vulcan	4-2	
Sat	Apr 5	Stockport County v. Everton	0-1	
Sat	Apr 12	Everton v. Stockport County	0-1	
Sat	Apr 12	Southport Vulcan v. Liverpool	0-2	
Fri	Apr 18	Liverpool v. Everton	1-1	
Fri	Apr 18	Southport Vulcan v. Stockport County	0-1	
Sat	Apr 19	Liverpool v. Stockport County	3-1	
Sat	Apr 19	Southport Vulcan v. Everton	4-1	
Mon	Apr 21	Stockport County v. Southport Vulcan	3-1	
Wed	Apr 23	Everton v. Southport Vulcan	1-2	
Sat	Apr 26	Stockport County v. Liverpool	1-1	

Section D - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	6	4	2	0	13	6	10
Stockport County	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Southport Vulcan	6	2	0	4	9	12	4
Everton	6	1	1	4	5	10	3

Semi-Finals					
1	Sat	May 24	Blackpool v. Liverpool	0-1	
2	Sat	May 24	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	1-1	aet.
	Tue	May 27	+ Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	1-0	

Final	
Sat, May 31, at Old Trafford, Manchester.	
Liverpool	3 (H Wadsworth, Lewis(pen), Miller)
Oldham Athletic	0
Liverpool	Scott; Longworth, Jenkinson; Bamber, W Wadsworth, McKinlay; H Wadsworth, Chambers, Miller, Lewis, Pearson.
Oldham Athletic	Matthews; Grundy, Stewart; Bradbury, Wilson, Wolstenholme; Goodwin, Walters, Pilkington, Gee, Wall.
Referee	LN Fletcher, of Bury.
Attendance	21,605 (receipts £1,305-10s-0d).

1919-20		Number of entrants: 12.	
Section A (FL Division 1 matches)			
Sat	Aug 30	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	4-0
Sat	Sep 6	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	0-0
Sat	Sep 13	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	2-3
Sat	Sep 20	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	3-1
Sat	Dec 20	Preston North End v. Burnley	0-1
Sat	Dec 27	Burnley v. Preston North End	1-1

Section A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnley	4	3	1	0	8	4	7
Blackburn Rovers	4	1	1	2	7	6	3
Preston North End	4	0	2	2	1	6	2

Section B (FL Division 1 matches)			
Sat	Nov 22	Everton v. Bolton Wanderers	3-3
Sat	Nov 29	Bolton Wanderers v. Everton	0-2
Sat	Dec 20	Everton v. Liverpool	0-0
Sat	Dec 27	Liverpool v. Everton	3-1
Sat	Jan 24	Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	0-3
Wed	Feb 4	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	2-0

Section B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	4	3	1	0	8	1	7
Everton	4	1	2	1	6	6	4
Bolton Wanderers	4	0	1	3	3	10	1

Section C (FL Division 1 matches)			
Mon	Sep 1	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	1-3
Mon	Sep 8	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	3-1
Sat	Oct 11	Manchester City v. Manchester United	3-3
Sat	Oct 18	Manchester United v. Manchester City	1-0
Sat	Nov 22	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	0-3
Wed	Feb 11	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	1-1

Section C - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	4	2	2	0	8	4	6
Manchester City	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
Oldham Athletic	4	0	1	3	3	10	1

Section D (FL Division 2 matches)			
Sat	Sep 13	Bury v. Stockport County	0-2
Sat	Sep 20	Stockport County v. Bury	1-1
Thu	Dec 25	Bury v. Blackpool	1-2
Fri	Apr 2	Blackpool v. Bury	1-0
Sat	Apr 3	Stockport County v. Blackpool	0-0
Sat	Apr 10	Blackpool v. Stockport County	1-0

Section D - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackpool	4	3	1	0	4	1	7
Stockport County	4	1	2	1	3	2	4
Bury	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

Semi-Finals				
1	Sat	May 8	Blackpool v. Liverpool	1-2
2	Sat	May 8	Manchester United v. Burnley	2-0

Final	
Sat, May 15, at Anfield, Liverpool. aet, 30 minutes plus 20 minutes.	
Liverpool	1 (Miller)
Manchester United	1 (Hopkin)
	Joint winners. There was no Final replay.
Liverpool	Scott; Lucas, McKinlay; Lacey, W Wadsworth, Bromilow; Sheldon, Forshaw, Miller, Chambers, Pearson.
Manchester United	Steward; Moore, Silcock; Forster, Harris, Meehan; Meredith, Bisset, Spence, Sapsford, Hopkin.
Referee	J Davies, of Prescot.
Attendance	15,000 (receipts £1,081-4s-8d).

1920-21		Number of entrants: 12.	
Section A (FL Division 1 matches)			
Sat	Dec 18	Burnley v. Preston North End	2-0
Sat	Dec 25	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	2-2
Mon	Dec 27	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	4-2
Sat	Jan 1	Preston North End v. Burnley	0-3
Sat	Jan 15	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	4-1
Sat	Jan 22	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	1-3

Section A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnley	4	4	0	0	12	2	8
Preston North End	4	1	1	2	6	9	3
Blackburn Rovers	4	0	1	3	6	13	1

Section B (FL Division 1 matches)			
Sat	Oct 23	Liverpool v. Everton	1-0
Sat	Oct 30	Everton v. Liverpool	0-3
Fri	Mar 25	Bolton Wanderers v. Everton	4-2
Mon	Mar 28	Everton v. Bolton Wanderers	2-3
Sat	Apr 23	Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	1-0
Sat	Apr 30	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	2-3

Section B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton Wanderers	4	4	0	0	11	6	8
Liverpool	4	2	0	2	6	4	4
Everton	4	0	0	4	4	11	0

Section C (FL Division 1 matches)			
Sat	Oct 9	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	4-1
Sat	Oct 16	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	2-2
Sat	Nov 20	Manchester United v. Manchester City	1-1
Sat	Nov 27	Manchester City v. Manchester United	3-0
Sat	Feb 26	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	2-0
Sat	Mar 5	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	3-1

Section C - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester City	4	2	1	1	7	4	5
Manchester United	4	1	2	1	7	7	4
Oldham Athletic	4	1	1	2	6	9	3

Section D (FL Division 2 matches)			
Sat	Aug 28	Bury v. Blackpool	2-2
Sat	Sep 4	Blackpool v. Bury	0-1
Sat	Sep 25	Stockport County v. Bury	1-2
Sat	Oct 2	Bury v. Stockport County	1-1
Sat	Apr 23	Blackpool v. Stockport County	1-1
Sat	Apr 30	Stockport County v. Blackpool	2-2

Section D - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bury	4	2	2	0	6	4	6
Blackpool	4	0	3	1	5	6	3
Stockport County	4	0	3	1	5	6	3

Semi-Finals				
1	Mon	May 9	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	4-1
2	Mon	May 9	Manchester City v. Burnley	2-0

Final

Sat, May 14, at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Manchester City	2	(Warner, Barnes)
Bolton Wanderers	1	(Roberts)
Manchester City	Goodchild; Cookson, Allen; Fayers, Woosnam, Hamill; Broad, Warner, Browell, Barnes, Murphy.	
Bolton Wanderers	Hinton; Baverstock, Hodson; Longworth, Seddon, Buchan; Cartman, Roberts, Jones, Vizard.	
Referee	E Shutt, of Burnley.	
Attendance	25,000 (receipts £1,640-11s-0d).	

1921-22		Number of entrants: 19.		
Section 1 (FL Division 1 matches)				
Sat	Nov 5	Burnley v. Preston North End	3-3	
Sat	Nov 12	Preston North End v. Burnley	2-1	
Mon	Dec 26	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	3-0	
Tue	Dec 27	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1	
Sat	Feb 4	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	3-2	
Sat	Feb 11	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	

Section 1 - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn Rovers	4	3	0	1	9	5	6
Preston North End	4	2	1	1	7	8	5
Burnley	4	0	1	3	7	10	1

Section 2 (FL Division 1 matches)				
Sat	Nov 5	Liverpool v. Everton	1-1	
Sat	Nov 12	Everton v. Liverpool	1-1	
Sat	Dec 31	Everton v. Bolton Wanderers	1-0	
Sat	Jan 14	Bolton Wanderers v. Everton	1-0	
Sat	Mar 18	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	0-2	
Sat	Mar 25	Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	1-3	

Section 2 - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton Wanderers	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
Everton	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Liverpool	4	1	2	1	5	5	4

Section 2 Play-Offs				
Wed	Apr 26	Bolton Wanderers v. Everton	6-0	
		Liverpool - bye.		
Wed	May 3	Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	3-1	
Section 3 (FL Division 1 matches)				
Sat	Oct 8	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	2-1	
Sat	Oct 15	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	0-1	
Sat	Oct 22	Manchester City v. Manchester United	4-1	
Sat	Oct 29	Manchester United v. Manchester City	3-1	
Sat	Apr 15	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	0-3	
Sat	Apr 22	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	1-1	

Section 3 - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester City	4	3	0	1	8	5	6
Oldham Athletic	4	1	1	2	5	4	3
Manchester United	4	1	1	2	5	9	3

Section 4					
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 5	Barrow v. Accrington Stanley	1-0	
2	Tue	Aug 30	Stalybridge Celtic v. Nelson	1-2	
3	Wed	Sep 14	Stockport County v. Rochdale	2-0	
4	Wed	Aug 31	Wigan Borough v. Southport	1-1	
	Tue	Sep 6	+ Southport v. Wigan Borough	1-4	
Round 2					
1	Thu	Sep 29	Barrow v. Nelson	1-0	
2	Wed	Sep 21	Wigan Borough v. Stockport County	2-2	
	Sat	Nov 19	+ Stockport County v. Wigan Borough	2-2	aet, 10 mins each way.
	Mon	Jan 2	+ Stockport County v. Wigan Borough	1-0	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Jan 23	Barrow v. Stockport County	0-1	
Section 4 - Final					
1	Tue	Mar 28	Bury v. Stockport County	5-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	May 8	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	0-0	(at Old Trafford, Manchester)
	Sat	May 13	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	1-0	(at Gigg Lane, Bury)
2	Mon	May 8	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	4-0	

Final

Wed, May 17, at Gigg Lane, Bury.

Bolton Wanderers	3	(Roberts 2, Smith(pen))
Bury	1	(Burkinshaw)
Bolton Wanderers	Pym; Howarth, Rowley; Longworth, Seddon, Buchan; Butler, Jack, Roberts, Smith, Vizard.	
Bury	Cornthwaite; Smith, Gorman; Porter, Gallagher, McCrae; Robbie, Stage, Bullock, Burkinshaw, Aitken.	
Referee	A Ward, of Kirkham.	
Attendance	15,912 (receipts £1,018-17s-9d).	

1922-23			Number of entrants: 20.		
Division 1 (FL Division 1 matches)					
Sat	Oct 21		Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	3-1	
Sat	Oct 28		Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	2-1	
Mon	Dec 25		Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	1-1	
Tue	Dec 26		Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0	
Sat	Jan 20		Burnley v. Preston North End	2-0	
Sat	Jan 27		Preston North End v. Burnley	3-1	

Division 1 - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston North End	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Burnley	4	2	0	2	7	6	4
Blackburn Rovers	4	1	1	2	4	6	3

Division 2 (FL Division 1 matches)				
Sat	Oct 7	Liverpool v. Everton	5-1	
Sat	Oct 14	Everton v. Liverpool	0-1	
Sat	Mar 3	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	3-0	
Fri	Mar 30	Bolton Wanderers v. Everton	0-2	
Mon	Apr 2	Everton v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1	
Wed	Apr 18	Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	1-1	

Division 2 - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	4	3	1	0	10	2	7
Everton	4	1	1	2	4	7	3
Bolton Wanderers	4	0	2	2	2	7	2

Division 3 (FL Division 1 matches)				
Sat	Dec 30	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	3-2	
Sat	Jan 6	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	0-3	

Division 3 - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester City	2	2	0	0	6	2	4
Oldham Athletic	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

Division 4					
Round 1					
1	Wed	Aug 30	Accrington Stanley v. Rochdale	1-2	
2	Wed	Aug 30	Southport v. Wigan Borough	3-1	
3	Tue	Aug 29	Stalybridge Celtic v. Nelson	3-2	
4	Mon	Aug 28	Tranmere Rovers v. Barrow	0-2	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Sep 12	Rochdale v. Manchester United	1-0	
2	Tue	Sep 19	Southport v. Bury	4-0	
3	Mon	Sep 18	Stalybridge Celtic v. Blackpool	1-3	
4	Mon	Sep 11	Stockport County v. Barrow	6-1	
Round 3					
1	Tue	Oct 3	Southport v. Blackpool	0-0	
	Wed	Oct 18	+ Blackpool v. Southport	2-0	
2	Mon	Oct 2	Stockport County v. Rochdale	2-2	
	Tue	Oct 10	+ Rochdale v. Stockport County	0-0	
	Wed	Oct 18	+ Rochdale v. Stockport County	1-4	(at Hyde Road, Manchester)
Division 4 - Final					
1	Mon	Apr 2	Stockport County v. Blackpool	0-4	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	May 7	Blackpool v. Liverpool	0-2	
2	Wed	Apr 25	Manchester City v. Preston North End	3-0	

Final

Sat, May 12, at Burnden Park, Bolton.

Manchester City	1	(Roberts)
Liverpool	0	
Manchester City	Goodchild; Cookson, Fletcher; Sharp, Hamill, Brindle; Meredith, Roberts, Johnson, Barnes, Murphy.	
Liverpool	Scott; Longworth, McKinlay; McNab, W Wadsworth, Bromilow; Lacey, Forshaw, Johnson, Chambers, Hopkin.	
Referee	JT Howcroft, of Bolton.	
Attendance	9,115 (receipts £572-17s-8d).	

1923-24			Number of entrants: 20 (12 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Tue	Sep 18	Nelson v. Accrington Stanley	2-3	
2	Wed	Sep 19	New Brighton v. Southport	0-0	
	Tue	Sep 25	+ Southport v. New Brighton	2-0	
3	Mon	Sep 17	Tranmere Rovers v. Barrow	1-1	
	Mon	Sep 24	++ Barrow v. Tranmere Rovers	1-0	aet, stopped after 117 mins.
	Mon	Oct 1	+ Tranmere Rovers v. Barrow	0-2	(at Springfield Park, Wigan)
4	Wed	Sep 12	Wigan Borough v. Rochdale	0-0	
	Tue	Oct 2	+ Rochdale v. Wigan Borough	1-0	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 8	Blackburn Rovers v. Barrow	3-3	
	Mon	Oct 15	+ Barrow v. Blackburn Rovers	3-2	
2	Mon	Oct 1	Blackpool v. Southport	0-0	
	Tue	Oct 9	+ Southport v. Blackpool	0-1	
3	Mon	Sep 24	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	2-0	
4	Mon	Sep 24	Everton v. Bury	4-1	
5	Mon	Sep 17	Liverpool v. Preston North End	7-3	
6	Mon	Oct 1	Manchester City v. Accrington Stanley	2-1	
7	Wed	Sep 19	Manchester United v. Stockport County	2-2	
	Mon	Oct 1	+ Stockport County v. Manchester United	4-0	
8	Tue	Oct 16	Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	1-5	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 22	Barrow v. Oldham Athletic	0-2	
2	Mon	Oct 15	Burnley v. Manchester City	2-2	
	Mon	Oct 22	+ Manchester City v. Burnley	4-0	
3	Mon	Oct 15	Everton v. Stockport County	0-0	
	Mon	Oct 29	+ Stockport County v. Everton	4-1	
4	Mon	Oct 22	Liverpool v. Blackpool	4-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Wed	Nov 7	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	2-1	(at Old Trafford, Manchester)
2	Mon	Nov 12	Stockport County v. Liverpool	0-1	

Final

Wed, Dec 12, at Maine Road, Manchester.

Manchester City	1	(Browell)
Liverpool	1	(Walsh)
Manchester City	Mitchell; Cookson, Fletcher; Sloan, Hamill, Pringle; Morris, Warner, Browell, Johnson, Murphy.	
Liverpool	Scott; Lucas, MacKinlay; Bamber, W Wadsworth, Bromilow; H Wadsworth, Forshaw, Chambers, Walsh, Hopkin.	
Referee	JE Telford, of Preston.	
Attendance	10,000 (receipts £469-2s-6d).	

Final replay

Sat, May 10, at Anfield, Liverpool.

Liverpool	2	(Shone 2)
Manchester City	0	
Liverpool	Scott; Lucas, McKinlay; McNab, W Wadsworth, Bromilow; Hopkin, Forshaw, Walsh, Shone, Lawson.	
Manchester City	Mitchell; Cookson, Fletcher; Sharp, Hamill, Pringle; Morris, Warner, Browell, Johnson, Murphy.	
Referee	AF Kirby, of Lostock Hall.	
Attendance	14,227 (receipts £768-0s-7d).	

1924-25 and 1925-26

1924-25			Number of entrants: 19 (13 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 29	Accrington Stanley v. New Brighton	1-0	
2	Tue	Sep 23	Nelson v. Wigan Borough	4-0	
3	Tue	Sep 2	Southport v. Rochdale	5-3	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 20	Accrington Stanley v. Oldham Athletic	0-2	
2	Mon	Oct 6	Barrow v. Preston North End	1-2	
3	Wed	Oct 15	Bolton Wanderers v. Stockport County	4-0	
4	Mon	Nov 10	Everton v. Bury	2-0	
5	Mon	Oct 20	Manchester City v. Blackpool	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 3	+ Blackpool v. Manchester City	2-0	
6	Wed	Oct 29	Manchester United v. Liverpool	0-0	
	Mon	Nov 3	+ Liverpool v. Manchester United	4-2	
7	Tue	Oct 7	Nelson v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	
8	Wed	Oct 15	Southport v. Burnley	1-0	
Round 3					
1	Wed	Nov 5	Bolton Wanderers v. Southport	3-1	
2	Wed	Nov 26	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	4-2	
3	Mon	Nov 17	Oldham Athletic v. Blackpool	0-2	
4	Mon	Nov 24	Preston North End v. Liverpool	4-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Wed	Dec 10	Bolton Wanderers v. Everton	4-1	
2	Mon	Dec 8	Preston North End v. Blackpool	0-2	
Final					
Wed, Jan 21, at Burnden Park, Bolton.					
Bolton Wanderers		2	(Jack, Nuttall)		
Blackpool		1	(Streets)		
Bolton Wanderers		Pym; Greenhalgh, Finney; Nuttall, Seddon, Jennings; Butler, Jack, Cassidy, Smith, Vizard.			
Blackpool		Crompton; Leaver, Jones; Watson, Curran, Benton; Meredith, Streets, Bedford, Barrass, Mee.			
Referee		F Slater, of Blackburn.			
Attendance		11,292 (receipts £794-2s-6d).			

1925-26			Number of entrants: 19 (13 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Wed	Oct 14	Accrington Stanley v. Wigan Borough	3-1	
2	Tue	Oct 6	Nelson v. Rochdale	3-1	
3	Wed	Oct 28	New Brighton v. Southport	1-1	
	Tue	Nov 3	+ Southport v. New Brighton	2-1	
Round 2					
1	Wed	Nov 11	Accrington Stanley v. Stockport County	1-1	
	Mon	Nov 16	+ Stockport County v. Accrington Stanley	0-1	
2	Mon	Nov 2	Barrow v. Oldham Athletic	0-3	
3	Mon	Nov 23	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	1-3	
4	Wed	Nov 11	Blackpool v. Preston North End	0-1	
5	Wed	Nov 11	Everton v. Burnley	2-0	
6	Wed	Nov 18	Manchester City v. Liverpool	5-0	
7	Wed	Nov 11	Manchester United v. Southport	9-0	
8	Tue	Nov 3	Nelson v. Bolton Wanderers	0-6	
Round 3					
1	Wed	Dec 16	Accrington Stanley v. Preston North End	2-1	
2	Wed	Dec 9	Bury v. Everton	2-1	
3	Wed	Dec 2	Manchester City v. Manchester United	3-2	
4	Mon	Nov 30	Oldham Athletic v. Bolton Wanderers	3-0	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	May 3	Accrington Stanley v. Manchester City	2-1	(at Gigg Lane, Bury)
2	Tue	Mar 2	Oldham Athletic v. Bury	1-3	
Final					
Sat, May 8, at Burnden Park, Bolton.					
Bury		5	(Bullock, Stage, Ball, Matthews, Amos)		
Accrington Stanley		2	(Greenhalgh, Gee)		
Bury		Richardson; Heap, Adamson; Porter, T Bradshaw, Ward; Matthews, Stage, Bullock, Ball, Amos.			
Accrington Stanley		Lunn; Bell, Whittaker; Kasher, Hall, Field; Wyper, Gee, Jepson, Greenhalgh, Gummery.			
Referee		H Hopkinson, of Rochdale.			
Attendance		7,305 (receipts £439-7s-4d).			

1926-27 and 1927-28

1926-27			Number of entrants: 18 (14 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 20	Barrow v. New Brighton	2-0	
2	Wed	Sep 8	Southport v. Wigan Borough	3-0	
Round 2					
1	Wed	Sep 8	Accrington Stanley v. Nelson	2-2	
	Mon	Oct 11	+ Nelson v. Accrington Stanley	3-5	
2	Wed	Oct 6	Blackpool v. Preston North End	3-2	
3	Tue	Sep 28	Burnley v. Rochdale	1-0	
4	Wed	Sep 22	Bury v. Manchester United	3-0	
5	Wed	Oct 6	Everton v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	
6	Wed	Oct 13	Liverpool v. Barrow	5-0	
7	Wed	Oct 13	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	8-4	
8	Tue	Oct 12	Southport v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 25	Accrington Stanley v. Manchester City	3-5	
2	Wed	Nov 10	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	
3	Tue	Nov 2	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	0-3	
4	Wed	Nov 10	Bury v. Liverpool	5-4	
Semi-Finals					
1	Tue	Nov 30	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	2-0	
2	Mon	Nov 29	Manchester City v. Bolton Wanderers	1-6	
Final					
Sat, May 14, at Burnden Park, Bolton.					
Bolton Wanderers		1	(Smith)		
Bury		0			
Bolton Wanderers		Pym; Greenhalgh, Finney; Cope, Seddon, Nuttall; Butler, Jack, Smith, Gibson, Vizard.			
Bury		Harrison; Adamson, Smith; Porter, T Bradshaw, Finney; Robbie, Stage, Bullock, Ball, Amos.			
Referee		A Haworth, of Blackpool.			
Attendance		13,229 (receipts £838-11s-8d).			

1927-28			Number of entrants: 18 (14 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 12	Accrington Stanley v. Wigan Borough	2-0	
2	Wed	Sep 21	New Brighton v. Barrow	4-1	
Round 2					
1	Tue	Sep 20	Accrington Stanley v. Oldham Athletic	1-2	
2	Mon	Sep 12	Blackpool v. Bury	1-2	
3	Tue	Sep 27	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	1-3	
4	Wed	Oct 5	Everton v. Preston North End	0-4	
5	Wed	Sep 28	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	4-3	
6	Wed	Sep 21	Manchester City v. Nelson	10-2	
7	Wed	Oct 12	Manchester United v. Rochdale	4-2	
8	Wed	Oct 12	New Brighton v. Southport	1-1	
	Tue	Oct 18	+ Southport v. New Brighton	2-0	
Round 3					
1	Wed	Nov 2	Bury v. Manchester United	4-0	
2	Wed	Oct 26	Liverpool v. Southport	5-2	
3	Wed	Oct 26	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	3-2	
4	Mon	Oct 17	Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	3-6	
Semi-Finals					
1	Wed	Nov 30	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	0-2	
2	Wed	Nov 23	Manchester City v. Liverpool	3-2	
Final					
Sat, May 12, at Old Trafford, Manchester.					
Manchester City		3	(Johnson, Marshall 2)		
Bury		1	(Smith)		
Manchester City		Barber; Ridley, McCloy; Barrass, Cowan, McMullan; Austin, Marshall, Tait, Johnson, Brook.			
Bury		Richardson; G Bradshaw, Adamson; Robinson, T Bradshaw, Pratt; Robbie, Bullock, Smith, Ball, Amos.			
Referee		AE Fogg, of Bolton.			
Attendance		25,000 (receipts £1,365-10s-0d).			

1928-29 and 1929-30

1928-29			Number of entrants: 18 (14 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 17	Barrow v. Rochdale	2-1	
2	Wed	Sep 5	Wigan Borough v. Nelson	2-0	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Sep 24	Barrow v. Wigan Borough	1-1	
	Wed	Oct 3	+ Wigan Borough v. Barrow	3-0	
2	Thu	Sep 13	Blackburn Rovers v. Accrington Stanley	3-1	
3	Tue	Sep 25	Burnley v. Blackpool	1-3	
4	Mon	Sep 17	Liverpool v. Bury	6-1	
5	Wed	Sep 19	Manchester City v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1	
	Wed	Oct 17	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	3-1	
6	Wed	Oct 3	New Brighton v. Manchester United	0-4	
7	Mon	Oct 1	Preston North End v. Everton	1-3	
8	Tue	Oct 2	Southport v. Oldham Athletic	1-1	
	Tue	Oct 16	+ Oldham Athletic v. Southport	5-1	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 29	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	4-3	
2	Wed	Nov 7	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	2-2	
	Wed	Nov 21	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	7-2	
3	Tue	Oct 30	Oldham Athletic v. Everton	1-1	
	Wed	Nov 21	+ Everton v. Oldham Athletic	5-3	
4	Wed	Oct 31	Wigan Borough v. Manchester United	4-4	
	Wed	Nov 7	+ Wigan Borough v. Manchester United	1-2	
Semi-Finals					
1	Wed	Dec 12	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	2-2	
	Wed	Apr 3	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	0-1	
2	Wed	Dec 5	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	1-4	
Final					
Sat, May 11, at Old Trafford, Manchester.					
Manchester United		2	(Thomas, Hanson)		
Blackburn Rovers		1	(Rigby)		
Manchester United		Steward; Moore, Dale; Bennion, Spencer, Mann; Spence, Hanson, Reid, Rowley, Thomas.			
Blackburn Rovers		Crawford; Hutton, Roxburgh; Campbell, Rankin, O' Dowd; Roscamp, Puddefoot, Bourton, Keating, Rigby.			
Referee		WF Bunnell, of Preston.			
Attendance		11,632 (receipts £633-13s-3d).			

1929-30

1929-30			Number of entrants: 18 (14 clubs exempted to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 16	Barrow v. Accrington Stanley	2-4	
2	Mon	Sep 9	Nelson v. Rochdale	3-4	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Oct 7	Accrington Stanley v. Wigan Borough	6-1	
2	Mon	Sep 9	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	
3	Tue	Oct 8	Bury v. Oldham Athletic	1-0	
4	Mon	Oct 7	Everton v. Blackpool	1-1	
	Mon	Oct 14	+ Blackpool v. Everton	3-0	
5	Wed	Oct 16	Manchester United v. Rochdale	5-0	
6	Wed	Oct 2	New Brighton v. Burnley	1-4	
7	Mon	Sep 30	Preston North End v. Liverpool	0-2	
8	Tue	Sep 24	Southport v. Manchester City	3-3	
	Mon	Oct 21	+ Manchester City v. Southport	7-0	
Round 3					
1	Mon	Oct 28	Accrington Stanley v. Burnley	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 4	+ Burnley v. Accrington Stanley	3-2	
2	Wed	Nov 6	Bury v. Blackpool	3-2	
3	Wed	Nov 13	Liverpool v. Manchester City	4-5	
4	Wed	Oct 30	Manchester United v. Bolton Wanderers	6-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Wed	Dec 4	Bury v. Burnley	1-3	
2	Wed	Dec 11	Manchester City v. Manchester United	3-1	
Final					
Sat, May 10, at Maine Road, Manchester.					
Manchester City		3	(Tait 2, McMullan)		
Burnley		0			
Manchester City		Barber; Ridley, McCloy; Robertson, Barrass, Heinemann; Toseland, Ridding, Tait, McMullan, Brook.			
Burnley		Sommerville; McCluggage, Waterfield; Steel, Bowsher, Forrest; Page, Beel, Mantle, Pemberton, Hutchison.			
Referee		GT Davies, of Bury.			
Attendance		10,768 (receipts £562-14s-0d).			

1930-31 and 1931-32

1930-31			Number of entrants: 18 (14 clubs exempted to Round 2).			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Sep 22	Barrow v. Wigan Borough	6-1	1,164	
2	Tue	Sep 23	Nelson v. Accrington Stanley	1-4	907	
Round 2						
1	Wed	Oct 15	Accrington Stanley v. Burnley	1-2	1,043	
2	Mon	Sep 29	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	8,550	
3	Wed	Oct 8	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	2-1	2,699	
4	Wed	Oct 8	Liverpool v. Everton	5-0	12,974	
5	Wed	Oct 15	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	2-0	1,979	
6	Wed	Oct 15	New Brighton v. Southport	2-0	1,165	
7	Mon	Oct 13	Preston North End v. Barrow	3-2	1,447	
8	Tue	Sep 30	Rochdale v. Bury	2-1	1,633	
Round 3						
1	Mon	Nov 3	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	2-1	3,173	
2	Wed	Nov 5	Liverpool v. Burnley	3-1	3,445	
3	Mon	Nov 3	Preston North End v. New Brighton	5-1	842	
4	Tue	Nov 11	Rochdale v. Manchester United	0-1	1,940	
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Nov 19	Liverpool v. Preston North End	4-2	3,697	
2	Wed	Nov 26	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	4-2	2,235	
Final						

Sat, Apr 25, at Anfield, Liverpool.

Liverpool	4 (Wright 2, Hodgson, McPherson)
Manchester United	0
Liverpool	Scott; Jackson, Lucas; Morrison, James, McDougall; Barton, Hodgson, Wright, McPherson, Gunson.
Manchester United	Steward; Mellor, Silcock; Bennion, Hilditch, McLachlan; Spence, McLenahan, Reid, Gallimore, Hopkinson.
Referee	WE Ryecroft, of Nelson.
Attendance	9,555 (receipts £494-6s-9d).

1931-32			Number of entrants: 17 (15 clubs exempted to Round 2).			
Round 1						
1	Tue	Sep 22	Rochdale v. Accrington Stanley	0-1	1,612	
Round 2						
1	Wed	Oct 7	Accrington Stanley v. Bolton Wanderers	0-0	1,418	
	Mon	Oct 19	+ Accrington Stanley v. Bolton Wanderers	1-4	1,893	
2	Mon	Oct 12	Barrow v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2	2,340	
	Mon	Oct 19	+ Barrow v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1	2,059	
3	Mon	Sep 28	Blackpool v. Preston North End	2-0	5,619	
4	Tue	Sep 22	Burnley v. Bury	3-2	1,190	
5	Wed	Oct 7	Everton v. Liverpool	2-3	6,675	
6	Wed	Oct 7	Manchester United v. Manchester City	2-3	3,492	
7	Tue	Oct 13	Southport v. New Brighton	4-2	1,550	
8	Wed	Sep 30	Wigan Borough v. Oldham Athletic	1-1	560	
	Mon	Oct 12	+ Oldham Athletic v. Wigan Borough	4-0	1,179	
Round 3						
1	Wed	Nov 4	Barrow v. Burnley	2-2	1,843	
	Tue	Nov 17	+ Burnley v. Barrow	4-1	1,013	
2	Mon	Oct 19	Blackpool v. Southport	6-3	3,180	
3	Wed	Nov 4	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1	2,593	
	Wed	Nov 11	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	8-1	1,828	
4	Mon	Nov 2	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	3-1	2,002	
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 20	Blackpool v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1		
	Wed	May 4	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool	5-1		
2	Wed	Apr 20	Manchester City v. Burnley	4-1		
Final						

Sat, May 14, at Maine Road, Manchester.

Bolton Wanderers	3 (McKay, Gibson, Cook)
Manchester City	2 (Halliday, Brook)
Bolton Wanderers	Jones; Duckworth, Finney; McKay, Griffiths, Howarth; Butler, Gibson, Milsom, Westwood, Cook.
Manchester City	Langford; Cann, Dale; Busby, Cowan, McMullan; Toseland, Marshall, Halliday, Tilson, Brook.
Referee	F Robinson, of Blackburn.
Attendance	15,386 (receipts £821-3s-0d).

The programme for the 1931-32 Final at Maine Road, Manchester

1932-33			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Sep 26	Blackpool v. Manchester City	4-1	4,331	
2	Wed	Sep 28	Everton v. Burnley	6-1	2,308	
3	Wed	Sep 21	Liverpool v. New Brighton	3-0	1,879	
4	Wed	Sep 28	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1	1,910	
5	Mon	Sep 26	Oldham Athletic v. Barrow	4-1	700	
6	Mon	Sep 26	Preston North End v. Bury	2-1	1,374	
7	Mon	Sep 19	Rochdale v. Accrington Stanley	2-2	1,542	
	Wed	Oct 5	+ Accrington Stanley v. Rochdale	4-2	1,339	
8	Tue	Sep 20	Southport v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	5,140	
Round 2						
1	Mon	Oct 24	Blackpool v. Manchester United	2-1	4,475	
2	Wed	Oct 19	Everton v. Preston North End	1-1	2,701	
	Mon	Oct 31	+ Preston North End v. Everton	6-2	4,188	
3	Wed	Oct 12	Liverpool v. Accrington Stanley	5-1	2,270	
4	Tue	Oct 18	Oldham Athletic v. Bolton Wanderers	0-1	1,730	
Semi-Finals						
1	Sat	Mar 4	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	4-2	6,350	
2	Wed	Apr 26	Liverpool v. Blackpool	4-2	2,787	
Final						
Sat, May 13, at Anfield, Liverpool.						
Liverpool			2 (Wright, Hanson)			
Bolton Wanderers			1 (Westwood)			
Liverpool			Riley; Steel, Done; Morrison, Bradshaw, McPherson; Barton, Hodgson, Wright, Roberts, Hanson.			
Bolton Wanderers			Church; Smith, Finney; Nicholson, Atkinson, Howarth; Butler, McKay, Milsom, Westwood, Rimmer.			
Referee			I Caswell, of Blackburn.			
Attendance			10,363 (receipts £510-19s-6d).			

The 1932-33 semi-final programme
Bolton Wanderes v Preston North End

1933-34			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Sep 20	Accrington Stanley v. Preston North End	2-1	2,256	
2	Wed	Sep 20	Bolton Wanderers v. Burnley	3-0	1,430	
3	Wed	Oct 4	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	2,036	
4	Wed	Sep 13	Liverpool v. Southport	8-0	3,621	
5	Wed	Sep 13	Manchester City v. Blackpool	4-1	4,087	
6	Wed	Sep 27	Manchester United v. Barrow	1-2	1,452	
7	Mon	Sep 11	Oldham Athletic v. New Brighton	4-0	910	
8	Tue	Sep 26	Rochdale v. Bury	1-2	3,055	
Round 2						
1	Thu	Oct 19	Barrow v. Blackburn Rovers	1-4	3,964	
2	Wed	Oct 4	Bolton Wanderers v. Accrington Stanley	5-2	1,265	
3	Wed	Oct 11	Manchester City v. Bury	1-1	1,150	
	Tue	Oct 31	+ Bury v. Manchester City	1-3	1,766	
4	Mon	Oct 9	Oldham Athletic v. Liverpool	4-0	1,607	
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Nov 15	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	3-2	1,548	
2	Mon	Nov 6	Oldham Athletic v. Blackburn Rovers	3-1	1,197	
Final						
Sat, May 12, at Maine Road, Manchester.						
Bolton Wanderers			4 (Westwood 2, Eastham, GT Taylor)			
Oldham Athletic			2 (Agar, Bailey(pen))			
Bolton Wanderers			R Jones; Smith, Finney; Goslin, Atkinson, G Taylor; GT Taylor, Eastham, E Jones, Westwood, Cook.			
Oldham Athletic			Swift; Seymour, Porter; Brunskill, Burke, Schofield; Agar, Rowley, Walsh, Bailey, Gray.			
Referee			HE Hull, of Burnley.			
Attendance			6,173 (receipts £319-16s-0d).			

1934-35 and 1935-36

1934-35			Number of entrants: 22.			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Sep 12	Accrington Stanley v. Wigan Athletic	1-3	1,152	
2	Thu	Sep 20	Blackburn Rovers v. Darwen	4-1	1,584	
3	Wed	Sep 19	Chorley v. Bury	0-4	2,641	
4	Wed	Sep 12	Everton v. Barrow	4-1	2,583	
5	Wed	Sep 19	Lancaster Town v. Manchester United	2-3	2,271	
6	Mon	Sep 17	Liverpool v. Blackpool	3-2	2,232	
7	Mon	Sep 3	New Brighton v. Horwich RMI	3-4	974	
8	Mon	Sep 10	Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	5-1	4,688	
9	Tue	Sep 11	Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	2-3	4,451	
10	Tue	Sep 11	Rossendale United v. Burnley	3-3	3,572	
	Tue	Sep 18	+ Burnley v. Rossendale United	0-1	1,615	
11	Tue	Sep 11	Southport v. Manchester City	3-4	4,043	
Round 2						
1	Sat	Oct 27	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	1-4	2,005	
2	Sat	Oct 6	Liverpool v. Wigan Athletic	3-2	5,291	
3	Sat	Sep 29	Manchester City v. Everton	2-2	1,823	
	Wed	Oct 10	+ Everton v. Manchester City	5-2	3,341	
4	Sat	Oct 6	Manchester United v. Rossendale United	1-2	4,261	
5	Sat	Sep 15	Preston North End v. Horwich RMI	8-1	5,927	
			Oldham Athletic - bye.			
Round 3						
1	Sat	Nov 3	Oldham Athletic v. Everton	1-6	3,084	
2	Sat	Oct 27	Rossendale United v. Liverpool	1-2	3,412	
			Bury, Preston North End - byes.			
Semi-Finals						
1	Sat	Nov 24	Bury v. Liverpool	3-0	2,097	
2	Sat	Nov 17	Preston North End v. Everton	1-4	7,569	
Final						
Sat, Apr 27, at Goodison Park, Liverpool.						
Everton		3	(Geldard 2, Dickinson)			
Bury		1	(Smith)			
Everton		Deighton; Williams, Jones; Mercer, Clark, Archer; Geldard, Bentham, Dickinson, Webster, Stein.				
Bury		Burrows; Eddleston, G Bradshaw; Porter, Jolly, Cope; Smith, Earl, Blackmore, O'Rourke, Amos.				
Referee		A Taylor, of Lower Ince.				
Attendance		2,000 (receipts £145-9s-0d).				

1935-36			Number of entrants: 22.			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Sep 9	Barrow v. Fleetwood	3-1	2,072	
2	Mon	Sep 30	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	1-0	747	
3	Thu	Sep 26	Darwen v. Oldham Athletic	1-0	1,480	
4	Mon	Sep 23	Lancaster Town v. Manchester City	1-0	2,207	
5	Wed	Oct 2	Liverpool v. Blackpool	1-4	3,734	
6	Wed	Oct 2	Manchester United v. Everton	3-1	1,476	
7	Wed	Sep 25	New Brighton v. Rochdale	3-1	1,318	
8	Thu	Sep 5	Preston North End v. Accrington Stanley	4-1	2,158	
9	Mon	Sep 2	Rossendale United v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1	2,558	
	Tue	Oct 8	+ Rossendale United v. Bolton Wanderers	1-0	535	aet.
10	Tue	Oct 1	Southport v. Chorley	3-0	1,016	
11	Mon	Sep 30	Wigan Athletic v. Bury	2-1	3,559	
Round 2						
1	Sat	Jan 18	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	2-4	2,157	
2	Sat	Nov 9	Darwen v. Wigan Athletic	1-5	3,000	
3	Sat	Jan 11	Manchester United v. Barrow	3-2	4,414	
4	Sat	Jan 4	Rossendale United v. Preston North End	3-1	2,036	
5	Sat	Nov 9	Southport v. New Brighton	7-2	1,129	
			Lancaster Town - bye.			
Round 3						
1	Sat	Feb 15	Rossendale United v. Blackpool	1-3	3,959	
2	Sat	Dec 14	Southport v. Lancaster Town	3-1	1,128	
			Manchester United, Wigan Athletic - byes.			
Semi-Finals						
1	Sat	Mar 14	Blackpool v. Southport	9-0	2,388	
2	Wed	Apr 1	Manchester United v. Wigan Athletic	0-2	1,686	
Final						
Sat, May 9, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.						
Blackpool		6	(McIntosh 3, Finan 3)			
Wigan Athletic		2	(Robson, Wilson)			
Blackpool		Wallace; Watson, Shipman; Dougall, Butler, Davidson; Middleton, Jones, McIntosh, Finan, Oram.				
Wigan Athletic		Eckersley; Robinson, McLauchlan; Paterson, Hancock, Tufnell; Colquhoun, Robson, Wilson, Burke, Scott.				
Referee		J Rennie, of Oldham.				
Attendance		8,889 (receipts £500-18s-3d).				

1936-37			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Sep 23	Accrington Stanley v. Rochdale	2-3	1,932	
2	Mon	Sep 28	Blackburn Rovers v. Liverpool	2-1	1,031	
3	Tue	Sep 29	Bury v. Blackpool	1-1	1,683	
	Mon	Oct 12	+ Blackpool v. Bury	2-0	2,568	
4	Wed	Sep 30	Everton v. Oldham Athletic	3-2	2,770	
5	Wed	Sep 30	Manchester City v. Southport	3-0	1,687	
6	Wed	Sep 16	Manchester United v. Burnley	5-4	870	
7	Wed	Sep 23	New Brighton v. Barrow	0-4	1,660	
8	Mon	Sep 28	Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	2-2	1,736	
	Wed	Oct 28	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	2-1	1,604	
Round 2						
1	Mon	Nov 16	Barrow v. Bolton Wanderers	2-5	2,071	
2	Mon	Nov 16	Blackpool v. Manchester City	3-2	1,936	
3	Wed	Oct 28	Manchester United v. Everton	2-0	1,684	
4	Tue	Oct 20	Rochdale v. Blackburn Rovers	1-3	1,007	
Semi-Finals						
1	Sat	May 1	Blackpool v. Manchester United	4-1		
2	Mon	May 3	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	2,081	
Final						
Sat, May 8, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.						
Blackpool		2	(McIntosh, Finan)			
Blackburn Rovers		1	(Sale)			
Blackpool		Wallace; Blair, Witham; Farrow, Cardwell, Jones; Munro, Hampson, Finan, Lyon, McIntosh.				
Blackburn Rovers		Barron; Lanceley, Crook; Whiteside, Pryde, Wightman; Bruton, Butt, Sale, Calladine, Guest.				
Referee		JE Williams, of Bolton.				
Attendance		5,400 (receipts £402-5s-0d).				

1937-38			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Apr 6	Accrington Stanley v. Barrow	4-2		
2	Mon	Apr 25	Blackburn Rovers v. Rochdale	4-1		
3	Wed	Mar 30	Bolton Wanderers v. New Brighton	5-1		
4	Mon	Apr 25	Burnley v. Blackpool	2-0		
5	Mon	Apr 25	Manchester City v. Everton	0-1		
6	Mon	Apr 25	Manchester United v. Liverpool	3-1		
7	Tue	Apr 5	Oldham Athletic v. Bury	3-4		
8	Tue	Apr 5	Southport v. Preston North End	1-1		
	Tue	Apr 12	+ Southport v. Preston North End	1-0		
Round 2						
1	Mon	May 2	Accrington Stanley v. Manchester United	0-1		
2	Mon	May 2	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	2-1		
3	Mon	May 2	Everton v. Burnley	1-2		
4	Wed	Apr 27	Southport v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1		
	Mon	May 9	+ Southport v. Bolton Wanderers	3-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Mon	May 9	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	4-1	1,974	
2	Wed	May 11	Southport v. Burnley	2-1	5,601	
Final						
Sat, May 14, at Haig Avenue, Southport.						
Manchester United		1	(Smith)			
Southport		0				
Manchester United		Breedon; Redwood, Roughton; Brown, Vose, Manley; Bryant, Wassall, Smith, Pearson, Rowley.				
Southport		Rutherford; Royston, Grainger; Newcomb, Hill, Scott; Stapleton, Hampson, Patrick, Miller, Kitchen.				
Referee		G Booth, of Heywood.				
Attendance		7,931 (receipts £392-8s-0d).				

1938-39 and 1939-40

1938-39			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Sep 19	Accrington Stanley v. New Brighton	3-3	998	
	Wed	Oct 5	+ New Brighton v. Accrington Stanley	1-0	1,348	
2	Thu	Sep 22	Barrow v. Manchester City	1-4	3,300	
3	Wed	Oct 5	Blackpool v. Bolton Wanderers	0-1	2,426	
4	Wed	Sep 21	Everton v. Burnley	6-1	1,299	
5	Wed	Sep 28	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	4-4	2,120	
	Thu	Oct 6	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Liverpool	2-2	819	aet.
	Wed	Oct 12	+ Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	6-1	2,613	
6	Tue	Sep 20	Oldham Athletic v. Rochdale	0-0	706	
	Tue	Oct 11	+ Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	2-2	846	aet.
	Tue	Oct 18	+ Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	1-2	1,646	aet.
7	Mon	Sep 19	Preston North End v. Manchester United	3-0	1,622	
8	Tue	Sep 20	Southport v. Bury	1-3	1,871	
Round 2						
1	Tue	Oct 25	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	626	
2	Wed	Nov 16	Liverpool v. Everton	2-2	5,127	
	Wed	Nov 23	+ Everton v. Liverpool	2-2	2,068	
	Wed	Nov 30	+ Liverpool v. Everton	2-1	6,726	
3	Wed	Oct 26	Manchester City v. New Brighton	3-0	1,186	
4	Mon	Oct 31	Oldham Athletic v. Preston North End	2-2	815	
	Mon	Nov 7	+ Preston North End v. Oldham Athletic	1-0	1,060	
Semi-Finals						
1	Sat	Feb 11	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	4-0		
2	Wed	Mar 29	Liverpool v. Preston North End	0-1		
Final						
Wed, May 10, at Deepdale, Preston.						
Preston North End		1	(Millar)			
Bolton Wanderers		1	(Hunt)			
		Joint winners. A Final replay was due to take place early in the 1939-40 season, but did not get played.				
Preston North End		Fairbrother; Gallimore, Summerbee; Shankly, Batey, Milne; White, Mutch, Millar, Beattie, McIntosh.				
Bolton Wanderers		Hanson; Winter, Hubbick; Goslin, Atkinson, Hurst; Geldard, Sinclair, Hunt, Westwood, Rothwell.				
Referee		EW Baker, of Manchester.				
Attendance		5,850 (receipts £303-9s-3d).				

1939-40

1939-40			Number of entrants: 17 (15 clubs exempted to Round 1).			
Qualifying Round						
1	Sat	Oct 14	Chester v. New Brighton	1-2		
Round 1						
1	Sat	Nov 4	Barrow v. Bury	3-4	4,476	
2	Sat	Nov 4	Blackburn Rovers v. Rochdale	2-1	1,675	
3	Sat	Nov 4	Blackpool v. Southport	4-1	3,266	
4	Sat	Nov 4	Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	1-3	2,176	
5	Sat	Nov 4	Burnley v. Everton	2-3	2,621	
6			Accrington Stanley - w/o.			Preston North End scratched.
7			New Brighton - w/o.			Manchester United scratched.
8			Oldham Athletic - w/o.			Manchester City scratched.
Round 2						
1	Sat	Dec 16	Accrington Stanley v. Oldham Athletic	7-1	875	
2	Sat	Dec 16	Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	0-6	2,370	
3	Sat	Dec 16	Bury v. Blackpool	5-3	4,284	
4	Sat	Jan 13	New Brighton v. Liverpool	1-4		
Semi-Finals						
1	Mon	Mar 25	Bury v. Accrington Stanley	4-0	6,148	
2	Sat	Apr 13	Everton v. Liverpool	4-1	13,000	
Final						
Sat, Jun 8, at Gigg Lane, Bury.						
Everton		4	(Lawton 2(1pen), Bentham, Stevenson)			
Bury		2	(Burdett, Davies)			
Everton		Sagar; Jackson, Greenhalgh; Lindley, Jones, Watson; Sumner, Bentham, Lawton, Stevenson, Boyes.				
Bury		Bradshaw; Robinson, Gemmell; Livingstone, McGowan, Halton; Jones, Davies, Burdett, Dougal, Carter.				
Referee		P Snape, of Swinton.				
Attendance		3,522 (receipts £178-16s-1d).				

1940-41			Number of entrants: 15.			
Round 1 (2 leg ties) (also North Regional League matches)						
1	Sat	Jan 4	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester United	0-2	1,174	
	Sat	Jan 11	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	0-0	1,650	
2	Sat	Jan 4	Blackpool v. Bury	3-2	4,785	
	Sat	Jan 11	Bury v. Blackpool	1-2	3,832	
3	Sat	Jan 4	Bolton Wanderers v. Oldham Athletic	2-1	2,038	
	Sat	Jan 11	Oldham Athletic v. Bolton Wanderers	3-5	2,892	aet.
4	Sat	Jan 4	Chester v. Southport	6-1	440	
	Sat	Jan 11	Southport v. Chester	2-3	723	
5	Sat	Jan 4	Liverpool v. Everton	1-2	3,245	
	Sat	Jan 11	Everton v. Liverpool	4-1	4,429	
6	Sat	Jan 4	Manchester City v. Rochdale	9-1	1,945	
	Sat	Jan 11	Rochdale v. Manchester City	1-6	1,588	
7	Sat	Jan 4	Wrexham v. New Brighton	3-5	869	
	Sat	Jan 11	New Brighton v. Wrexham	6-1	829	
			Burnley - bye.			
Round 2 (2 leg ties) (also North Regional League matches)						
1	Sat	Jan 18	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	3-2	1,146	
	Sat	Jan 25	Manchester United v. Bolton Wanderers	4-1	2,649	
2	Sat	Jan 25	Burnley v. Everton	2-3	5,259	
	Sat	May 3	Everton v. Burnley	0-2	2,675	
3	Sat	Feb 1	Chester v. New Brighton	7-1	400	
	Sat	Feb 8	New Brighton v. Chester	2-0	750	
4	Sat	Jan 18	Manchester City v. Blackpool	2-4	1,671	
	Sat	Jan 25	Blackpool v. Manchester City	2-1	9,719	
Semi-Finals (also North Regional League matches)						
1	Sat	May 10	Burnley v. Blackpool	1-0	5,693	
2	Sat	Apr 19	Chester v. Manchester United	4-6	1,989	aet.
Final (also North Regional League match)						
Sat, May 17, at Turf Moor, Burnley.						
Manchester United			1 (Carey)			
Burnley			0			
Manchester United			Breedon; Topping, Roughton; Warner, Porter, Whalley; Smith, Carey, Rowley, Pearson, Mitten.			
Burnley			Conway; Snowden, Mather; Gardner, Woodruff, Robinson; Coates, Brocklebank, Kippax, Hornby, Bright.			
Referee			G Twist, of Westhoughton.			
Attendance			9,790 (receipts £509-6s-0d).			

1941-42			Number of entrants: 14.			
Round 1 (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	Mar 14	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	6-2	3,534	
	Sat	Mar 28	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	2-0	3,153	
2	Sat	Apr 11	Blackpool v. Bolton Wanderers	7-1	4,000	
	Sat	Apr 18	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool	2-1	3,760	
3	Sat	Apr 11	Bury v. Rochdale	4-3	1,648	
	Sat	Apr 18	Rochdale v. Bury	4-1	2,010	
4	Sat	Mar 21	Chester v. Liverpool	1-3	3,000	
	Sat	May 9	Liverpool v. Chester	3-0	5,000	
5	Sat	Mar 21	Everton v. Southport	3-1		
	Tue	Apr 28	Southport v. Everton	2-1		
6	Sat	Apr 25	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	5-1	3,400	
	Sat	May 2	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	1-2	2,798	
7			Manchester City - w/o.			Stockport County scratched.
Round 2 (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	May 9	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester United	1-1	1,500	
	Sat	May 16	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	4,000	
2	Sat	May 9	Manchester City v. Everton	2-0	4,000	
	Sat	May 16	Everton v. Manchester City	6-1	18,000	
3	Sat	Apr 25	Rochdale v. Blackpool	2-0	2,736	
	Sat	May 2	Blackpool v. Rochdale	5-1	6,000	
			Liverpool - bye.			
Semi-Finals (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	May 23	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	2-3	8,062	aet.
2			Blackpool - w/o.			Everton scratched.
Final (also FL North Second Championship match)						
Sat, May 30, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.						
Blackpool			7 (Dodds 5, Dix, Mortenson)			
Blackburn Rovers			1 (Pryde)			
Blackpool			Roxburgh; Pope, Barker; Farrow, Dykes, Johnston; Matthews, Mortenson, Dodds, Dix, Burbanks.			
Blackburn Rovers			Conway; Westby, Anderson; Whiteside, Pryde, Percival; Gardner, Johnson, Currier, Glaister, Pearson.			
Referee			H Saxon, of Burnley.			
Attendance			10,000 (receipts £675-6s-8d).			

1942-43			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1 (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches unless indicated)						
1	Sat	Mar 20	Blackpool Services v. Burnley	3-1		not FL North match.
	Sat	Mar 27	Burnley v. Blackpool Services	2-2		not FL North match.
2	Sat	Apr 3	Liverpool v. Chester	4-1	10,769	
	Sat	Apr 10	Chester v. Liverpool	2-5	4,000	
3	Sat	Mar 20	Manchester United v. Bury	4-1	2,000	
	Sat	Mar 27	Bury v. Manchester United	3-5	2,868	
4	Sat	Mar 20	Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	1-0	2,722	
	Sat	Mar 27	Oldham Athletic v. Rochdale	3-1	2,300	
5	Sat	Mar 20	Southport v. Everton	4-1	3,000	
	Sat	Mar 27	Everton v. Southport	2-1	4,000	
6	Sat	Mar 6	Stockport County v. Crewe Alexandra	2-3	1,500	
	Sat	Mar 13	Crewe Alexandra v. Stockport County	8-3	3,000	
7			Blackburn Rovers - w/o.			Blackpool scratched.
8			Bolton Wanderers - w/o.			Manchester City scratched.
Round 2 (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches unless indicated)						
1	Sat	Apr 3	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	1-3	2,800	
	Sat	Apr 10	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	2,971	
2	Sat	Apr 17	Liverpool v. Southport	3-0	10,000	only one leg played.
3	Sat	Apr 3	Manchester United v. Crewe Alexandra	4-1	4,000	
	Sat	Apr 10	Crewe Alexandra v. Manchester United	0-6	2,300	
4	Sat	Apr 3	Oldham Athletic v. Blackpool Services	3-3	3,000	not FL North match.
	Sat	Apr 10	Blackpool Services v. Oldham Athletic	1-4	3,000	not FL North match.
Semi-Finals (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	Apr 24	Bolton Wanderers v. Liverpool	3-6	7,566	
	Sat	May 1	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	4-0	10,000	
2	Sat	Apr 17	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	3-0	5,660	
	Sat	Apr 24	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	3-1	6,267	

Final (1st leg) (also FL North Second Championship match)

Sat, May 8, at Anfield, Liverpool.

Liverpool	1 (Nieuwenhuys)
Manchester United	3 (Bellis, Pearson, J Rowley)
Liverpool	Hobson; Westby, Mather; Kaye, Rist, Pilling; Nieuwenhuys, Fagan, Balmer, Done, Hulligan.
Manchester United	Radcliffe; Griffiths, Roughton; Walsh, Eastwood, Whalley; Bryant, Pearson, Bellis, Morris, J Rowley.
Referee	J Williams, of Bolton.
Attendance	12,117 (receipts £727-14s-11d).

Final (2nd leg) (also FL North Second Championship match)

Sat, May 15, at Maine Road, Manchester.

Manchester United	3 (J Rowley 2, Roughton)
Liverpool	3 (Balmer 3)
Manchester United	Radcliffe; Roughton, Griffiths; Walsh, Eastwood, Whalley; Bryant, Smith, J Rowley, Pearson, Bellis.
Liverpool	Hobson; Westby, Lambert; Kaye, Rist, Pilling; Balmer, Murphy, Done, Fagan, Hulligan.
Referee	H Holt, of Rochdale.
Attendance	9,196 (receipts £555-11s-0d).

1943-44			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1 (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	Mar 18	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	2-1	3,000	
	Sat	Mar 25	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2	4,769	
2	Sat	Apr 1	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	3-0	5,791	
	Sat	Apr 8	Manchester United v. Bolton Wanderers	3-2	13,044	
3	Sat	Mar 18	Everton v. Chester	5-2	11,139	
	Sat	Mar 25	Chester v. Everton	2-9	5,500	
4	Sat	Apr 1	Liverpool v. Southport	6-2	8,533	
	Sat	Apr 8	Southport v. Liverpool	4-7	4,000	
5	Sat	Apr 1	Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	4-0	4,188	
	Sat	Apr 8	Oldham Athletic v. Rochdale	0-2	7,620	
6	Sat	Apr 1	Stockport County v. Crewe Alexandra	3-1	1,768	
	Sat	Apr 8	Crewe Alexandra v. Stockport County	1-2	4,000	
7			Blackpool Services - w/o.			Blackpool scratched.
8			Bury - w/o.			Manchester City scratched.
Round 2 (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches unless indicated)						
1	Sat	Apr 1	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool Services	3-0	2,000	not FL North match.
	Sat	Apr 8	Blackpool Services v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	4,000	not FL North match.
2	Mon	Apr 10	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	3-2	7,021	
	Sat	Apr 15	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1	4,187	aet.
3	Mon	Apr 10	Everton v. Liverpool	3-0	40,000	
	Sat	Apr 15	Liverpool v. Everton	3-0	25,062	
	Sat	Apr 22	+ Liverpool v. Everton	4-2	24,404	
4	Mon	Apr 10	Rochdale v. Stockport County	1-4	5,700	
	Sat	Apr 15	Stockport County v. Rochdale	3-2	5,000	
Semi-Finals (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	Apr 22	Bolton Wanderers v. Stockport County	4-2	5,003	
	Sat	Apr 29	Stockport County v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	3,825	
2	Sat	Apr 29	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0	17,103	only one leg played.

Final (1st leg) (also FL North Second Championship match)

Sat, May 6, at Anfield, Liverpool.

Liverpool	3	(Nieuwenhuys, Hubbick(og), Campbell)
Bolton Wanderers	1	(Currier)
Liverpool	Hobson; Westby, Gulliver; Busby, Hughes, Pilling; Campbell, Nieuwenhuys, Done, Beattie, Polk.	
Bolton Wanderers	Hall; Gorman, Hubbick; Whalley, Hamlett, Taylor; Woodward, Currier, Lofthouse, Johnson, McClelland.	
Referee	AC Denham, of Ashton-under-Lyne.	
Attendance	16,591 (receipts £1,139-5s-7d).	

Final (2nd leg)

Sat, May 13, at Burnden Park, Bolton.

Bolton Wanderers	2	(Lofthouse, Hughes(og))
Liverpool	3	(Welsh 2, Done)
Bolton Wanderers	Hall; Gorman, Hubbick; Whalley, Hamlett, Taylor; Woodward, Currier, Lofthouse, Johnson, McClelland.	
Liverpool	Hobson; Westby, Gulliver; Johnstone, Hughes, Pilling; Nieuwenhuys, Beattie, Done, Welsh, Campbell.	
Referee	W Rothwell, of Whitefield.	
Attendance	10,254 (receipts £781-6s-9d).	

1944-45			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1 (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	Mar 3	Accrington Stanley v. Blackpool	4-1	4,729	
	Sat	Mar 10	Blackpool v. Accrington Stanley	1-2	8,000	
2	Sat	Mar 17	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	3-3	10,503	
	Mon	Apr 2	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	1-0	9,314	
3	Sat	Mar 3	Everton v. Chester	4-1	12,000	
	Sat	Mar 10	Chester v. Everton	6-4		aet.
4	Sat	Mar 17	Oldham Athletic v. Burnley	1-2	4,266	
	Mon	Apr 2	Burnley v. Oldham Athletic	3-1	5,221	
5	Sat	Mar 10	Rochdale v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	2,670	
	Sat	Mar 17	Blackburn Rovers v. Rochdale	4-0	3,000	
6	Sat	Mar 3	++ Southport v. Liverpool	0-5	5,000	
			Southport - w/o.			Liverpool scratched.
7	Sat	Mar 17	Stockport County v. Manchester City	4-1	4,000	
	Mon	Apr 2	Manchester City v. Stockport County	1-5	18,000	
8			Crewe Alexandra - w/o.			Manchester United scratched.
Round 2 (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	Apr 7	Burnley v. Accrington Stanley	1-0	5,211	
	Sat	Apr 14	Accrington Stanley v. Burnley	4-0	3,000	
2	Sat	Apr 7	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	2-3	3,599	
	Sat	Apr 14	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	4-2	1,537	
3	Sat	Apr 21	Southport v. Everton	0-5	3,000	
	Sat	Apr 28	Everton v. Southport	1-1	9,000	
4	Sat	Apr 21	Stockport County v. Crewe Alexandra	0-1	3,000	
	Sat	Apr 28	Crewe Alexandra v. Stockport County	6-0	3,000	
Semi-Finals (2 leg ties) (also FL North Second Championship matches)						
1	Sat	May 5	Accrington Stanley v. Everton	1-1	2,348	
	Sat	May 12	Everton v. Accrington Stanley	0-2	9,806	
2	Sat	May 5	Blackburn Rovers v. Crewe Alexandra	2-0	1,478	
	Sat	May 12	Crewe Alexandra v. Blackburn Rovers	3-2	3,136	

Final (1st leg) (also FL North Second Championship match)

Sat, May 19, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Blackburn Rovers	2	(Robertson, Durrant)
Accrington Stanley	0	
Blackburn Rovers	Conway; Crook, Green; Egerton, Forbes, Attwell; Gardner, Smith, Durrant, Robertson, Langton.	
Accrington Stanley	Holdcroft; Eastwood, Clark; Cockburn, Briggs, Malcolm; Conroy, Rothwell, Ardron, Keeley, Rudd.	
Referee	GH Fell, of Bolton.	
Attendance	6,726 (receipts £456-11s-7d).	

Final (2nd leg) (also FL North Second Championship match)

Sat, May 26, at Peel Park, Accrington.

Accrington Stanley	3	(Conroy, Malcolm, Rothwell)
Blackburn Rovers	4	(Langton 2, Smith 2)
Accrington Stanley	Holdcroft; Eastwood, Wilson; Molloy, Briggs, Malcolm; Conroy, Rothwell, Ardron, Keeley, Cockburn.	
Blackburn Rovers	Conway; Crook, Green; Egerton, Forbes, Hindle; Gardner, Stephan, Durrant, Smith, Langton.	
Referee	WD Murdoch, of Manchester.	
Attendance	5,334 (receipts £408-9s-9d).	

1945-46			Number of entrants: 17 (15 clubs exempted to Round 1).			
Preliminary Round (2 leg ties)						
1	Wed	Aug 29	Chester v. Wrexham	2-2		
	Wed	Sep 5	Wrexham v. Chester	2-3		
Round 1 (2 leg ties)						
1	Mon	Sep 3	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	0-3		
	Mon	Sep 24	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	6-1		
2	Mon	Sep 3	Bolton Wanderers v. Accrington Stanley	2-0		
	Tue	Sep 25	Accrington Stanley v. Bolton Wanderers	1-0		
3	Thu	Aug 16	Burnley v. Blackpool	1-0		
	Mon	Sep 17	Blackpool v. Burnley	0-2		
4	Wed	Sep 12	Chester v. Crewe Alexandra	5-1		
	Wed	Sep 19	Crewe Alexandra v. Chester	3-1		
5	Wed	Sep 19	Everton v. Liverpool	3-3		
	Wed	Sep 26	Liverpool v. Everton	1-1	aet, 20 mins.	
	Wed	Feb 20	+ Liverpool v. Everton	4-0		
6	Wed	Sep 5	Manchester United v. Rochdale	5-1		
	Tue	Jan 1	Rochdale v. Manchester United	2-0		
7	Mon	Sep 3	Oldham Athletic v. Barrow	1-2		
	Mon	Sep 10	Barrow v. Oldham Athletic	1-3	aet.	
8	Wed	Sep 5	Southport v. Manchester City	3-2		
	Wed	Sep 19	Manchester City v. Southport	5-0		
Round 2 (2 leg ties)						
1	Mon	Mar 11	Burnley v. Chester	2-1		
	Sat	Mar 16	Chester v. Burnley	0-2		
2	Mon	Mar 11	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	3-1	only one leg played.	
3	Wed	Mar 6	Manchester United v. Bury	4-1		
	Tue	Mar 12	Bury v. Manchester United	0-1		
4	Tue	Apr 2	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	3-1		
	Wed	Apr 10	Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	4-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Mar 27	Liverpool v. Burnley	2-3	9,510	aet.
2	Wed	May 1	Manchester United v. Manchester City	3-0	32,231	

Final

Sat, May 11, at Maine Road, Manchester.

Manchester United	1	(Rowley)
Burnley	0	
Manchester United	Crompton; Carey, Walton; Warner, Chilton, Cockburn; Delaney, Aston, Buckle, Pearson, Rowley.	
Burnley	Strong; Woodruff, Mather; Soo, Johnson, Bray; Chew, Morris, Jackson, Haigh, Kippax.	
Referee	W Prescott, of Southport.	
Attendance	36,500 (receipts £3,025-13s-9d).	

1946-47			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1 (2 legs)						
1	Wed	Oct 9	Accrington Stanley v. Burnley	0-0		
	Mon	Oct 21	Burnley v. Accrington Stanley	3-0		
2	Thu	Sep 26	Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	1-1		
	Wed	Oct 2	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	0-2		
3	Tue	Oct 15	Chester v. Rochdale	2-0		
	Tue	Oct 22	Rochdale v. Chester	0-1		
4	Wed	Oct 2	Blackpool v. Liverpool	2-2		
	Wed	Oct 30	Liverpool v. Blackpool	2-1		
5	Wed	Oct 16	Manchester City v. Bolton Wanderers	0-1		
	Wed	Oct 30	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	2-3		aet.
	Wed	Nov 6	+ Manchester City v. Bolton Wanderers	0-0		aet.
	Wed	Nov 27	+ Manchester City v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2		
6	Tue	Oct 8	Oldham Athletic v. Barrow	4-0		
	Thu	Oct 17	Barrow v. Oldham Athletic	3-2		
7	Wed	Oct 16	Preston North End v. Manchester United	0-1		
	Wed	Oct 30	Manchester United v. Preston North End	2-1		
8	Tue	Oct 1	Southport v. Bury	0-2		
	Tue	Oct 15	Bury v. Southport	3-0		
Round 2 (2 legs)						
1	Wed	Nov 6	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1		
	Wed	Nov 27	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	2-4		
2	Wed	Dec 4	Chester v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2		
	Wed	Dec 11	Bolton Wanderers v. Chester	3-0		
3	Wed	Nov 20	Manchester United v. Burnley	4-3		
	Tue	Dec 3	Burnley v. Manchester United	2-0		aet.
4	Wed	Nov 20	Liverpool v. Oldham Athletic	3-2		
	Tue	Nov 26	Oldham Athletic v. Liverpool	1-3		
Semi-Finals (2 legs)						
1	Wed	May 7	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	3-1	11,871	
	Wed	May 14	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	3-0	8,278	aet.
2	Wed	May 21	Liverpool v. Burnley	1-0	18,407	only one leg played.
Final						
Sat, Jun 7, at Anfield, Liverpool.						
Liverpool		2	(Balmer, Stubbins)			
Bury		1	(Mutch)			
Liverpool		Sidlow; Harley, Lambert; Jones, Hughes, Spicer; Watkinson, Balmer, Stubbins, Fagan, Priday.				
Bury		Bradshaw; G Griffiths, W Griffiths; Jones, Hart, Halton; Kilshaw, Quigley, Mutch, Carter, Berry.				
Referee		G Gibson, of Urmston.				
Attendance		23,018 (receipts £1,685-19s-3d).				

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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THE LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.

LANCASHIRE SENIOR CUP FINAL.

LIVERPOOL

BURY

AT ANFIELD. SATURDAY, JUNE 7th, 1947.

KICK-OFF 3 p.m.

NEXT WEEK'S GRAND FINALE AT ANFIELD.
LIVERPOOL SENIOR CUP FINAL.
LIVERPOOL v. EVERTON
SATURDAY, JUNE 14th, 1947. Kick-off 3-15 p.m.

Admission:
Ground 1/3: Paddock 2/3: Stands 2/6 & 2/9: Boys 9d. (All Pay)

Progress of the Sheffield United v. Stoke City match will be announced every 15 minutes.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

The 1946-47 Final programme

1947-48 and 1948-49

1947-48			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Thu	Oct 23	Blackburn Rovers v. Chester	2-1		
2	Wed	Oct 15	Blackpool v. Burnley	1-0		
3	Tue	Oct 7	Bury v. Accrington Stanley	3-2		
4	Tue	Oct 7	Everton v. Bolton Wanderers	3-4		
5	Wed	Oct 22	Liverpool v. Manchester City	2-0		
6	Wed	Oct 15	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	1-1		
	Tue	Oct 21	+ Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	2-0		
7	Tue	Sep 23	Rochdale v. Preston North End	3-0		
8	Wed	Sep 24	Southport v. Barrow	4-1		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Nov 17	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	1-0		
2	Tue	Nov 4	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	2-3		
3	Wed	Nov 19	Liverpool v. Oldham Athletic	0-2		
4	Tue	Oct 28	Southport v. Rochdale	1-0		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 28	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0	5,080	aet.
2	Sat	Jan 10	Southport v. Oldham Athletic	1-0	6,271	
Final						
Sat, May 8, at Haig Avenue, Southport.						
Bolton Wanderers		5	(Moir 3, Bradley, Jackson)			
Southport		1	(Wyles)			
Bolton Wanderers		Hanson; Roberts, R Banks; Howe, Gillies, Barrass; Woodward, Jackson, Lofthouse, Bradley, Moir.				
Southport		Birkett; Westby, Boyle; Harrison, Turner, Batey; Iddon, Owens, Wyles, Mutch, Goodwin.				
Referee		D Schofield, of Oldham.				
Attendance		10,734 (receipts £812-14s-5d).				

1948-49			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Tue	Oct 5	Barrow v. Preston North End	3-1		
2	Wed	Oct 27	Blackpool v. Liverpool	2-0		
3	Wed	Oct 27	Bolton Wanderers v. Accrington Stanley	3-1		
4	Tue	Sep 28	Burnley v. Southport	3-0		
5	Tue	Oct 26	Bury v. Rochdale	1-2		
6	Wed	Sep 22	Chester v. Everton	1-1		
	Wed	Sep 29	+ Everton v. Chester	4-0		
7	Wed	Oct 27	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1		
8	Tue	Oct 19	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	1-2		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Nov 15	Barrow v. Blackpool	0-2		
2	Wed	Nov 24	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	2-4		
3	Wed	Nov 10	Manchester City v. Burnley	1-1		
	Tue	Nov 16	+ Burnley v. Manchester City	1-2		
4	Tue	Nov 9	Rochdale v. Everton	1-1		
	Tue	Nov 16	+ Everton v. Rochdale	0-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 27	Blackpool v. Manchester United	3-1	3,586	
2	Tue	May 3	Manchester City v. Rochdale	0-2	3,812	
Final						
Sat, May 14, at Boundary Park, Oldham.						
Rochdale		1	(Connor)			
Blackpool		0				
Rochdale		Bywater; Watson, Hubbick; McGeachie, Birch, Wood; Lawrence, Livesey, Connor, Woods, Dryburgh.				
Blackpool		Farm; Garrett, Wright; Hearn, Crosland, Fenton; Adams, Davidson, McIntosh, McCall, Wardle.				
Referee		J Kelly, of Eccleston.				
Attendance		13,174 (receipts £1,000-3s-6d).				

1949-50 and 1950-51

1949-50			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Oct 5	Bolton Wanderers v. Accrington Stanley	4-1		
2	Tue	Oct 18	Burnley v. Bury	4-0		
3	Wed	Oct 26	Chester v. Blackburn Rovers	3-0		
4	Wed	Oct 19	Everton v. Southport	1-3		
5	Wed	Oct 26	Liverpool v. Barrow	1-0		
6	Wed	Oct 12	Manchester United v. Manchester City	2-1		
7	Tue	Oct 4	Oldham Athletic v. Preston North End	4-2		
8	Tue	Oct 25	Rochdale v. Blackpool	0-0		
	Wed	Nov 9	+ Blackpool v. Rochdale	0-1	aet.	
Round 2						
1	Wed	Feb 8	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	0-1		
2	Tue	Nov 29	Burnley v. Chester	4-4		
	Wed	Jan 18	+ Chester v. Burnley	3-4		
3	Tue	Jan 31	Oldham Athletic v. Liverpool	1-3		
4	Tue	Jan 17	Southport v. Manchester United	1-0		
Semi-Finals						
1	Tue	Apr 18	Rochdale v. Burnley	1-2	7,859	
2	Mon	Apr 3	Southport v. Liverpool	1-2	4,415	
Final						
Sat, May 6, at Turf Moor, Burnley.						
Burnley		3	(Spencer, Attwell(pen), Clarke)			
Liverpool		0				
Burnley		Strong; Aird, Mather; Attwell, Cummings, Bray; Stephenson, Potts, Clarke, Spencer, Hays.				
Liverpool		Minshull; Shepherd, Spicer; Taylor, Hughes, Jones; Payne, Balmer, Done, Fagan, Brierley.				
Referee		WJ Harwood, of Blackburn.				
Attendance		16,898 (receipts £1,347-14s-0d).				

1950-51			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Oct 11	Accrington Stanley v. Rochdale	2-1		
2	Thu	Oct 19	Barrow v. Manchester City	1-2		
3	Wed	Oct 4	Blackpool v. Preston North End	2-2		
	Mon	Oct 23	+ Preston North End v. Blackpool	0-3		
4	Wed	Oct 25	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	2-3		
5	Tue	Oct 24	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	3-1		
6	Wed	Oct 18	Everton v. Oldham Athletic	3-3		
	Tue	Oct 31	+ Oldham Athletic v. Everton	2-0		
7	Wed	Oct 25	Liverpool v. Bury	1-4		
8	Tue	Sep 26	Southport v. Chester	1-1		
	Wed	Oct 4	+ Chester v. Southport	0-2		
Round 2						
1	Wed	Jan 17	Accrington Stanley v. Manchester United	1-2		
2	Wed	Jan 24	Bury v. Blackpool	4-1		
3	Tue	Jan 23	Oldham Athletic v. Burnley	1-4		
4	Tue	Jan 16	Southport v. Manchester City	1-3		
Semi-Finals						
1	Tue	Apr 24	Bury v. Burnley	2-0	2,355	
2	Wed	Apr 18	Manchester City v. Manchester United	0-0		
	Mon	May 7	+ Manchester United v. Manchester City	2-1		
Final						
Mon, May 14, at Old Trafford, Manchester.						
Manchester United		2	(Birch, Gibson)			
Bury		1	(Daniel)			
Manchester United		Crompton; McNulty, Byrne; McIlvenny, Jones, Blanchflower; Viollet, Gibson, Cassidy, Birch, Bond.				
Bury		Goram; W Griffiths, Bodle; Greenhalgh, Hart, Bardsley; Hazlett, May, Plant, Daniel, Bellis.				
Referee		H Holt, of Rochdale.				
Attendance		5,656 (receipts £399-10s-0d).				

1951-52 and 1952-53

1951-52			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Thu	Oct 18	Barrow v. Manchester City	2-2		
	Thu	Oct 25	+ Barrow v. Manchester City	2-0		
2	Wed	Oct 24	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	1-0		
3	Wed	Oct 24	Blackpool v. Everton	4-3		
4	Tue	Oct 16	Bury v. Burnley	0-1		
5	Wed	Oct 17	Chester v. Oldham Athletic	2-0		
6	Wed	Oct 31	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1		
7	Thu	Oct 11	Preston North End v. Rochdale	1-0		
8	Tue	Oct 9	Southport v. Accrington Stanley	3-1		
Round 2						
1	Thu	Mar 13	Barrow v. Southport	3-1		
2	Wed	Mar 19	Blackburn Rovers v. Chester	3-2		
3	Wed	Jan 23	Blackpool v. Preston North End	0-1		
4	Wed	Feb 20	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	2-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 23	Barrow v. Preston North End	3-0	5,240	
2	Thu	Apr 24	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0	6,172	
Final						
Sat, May 10, at Holker Street, Barrow.						
Burnley	1	(Cheesebrough)				
Barrow	0					
Burnley	Strong; Aird, Mather; Adamson, Cummings, Attwell; Cheesebrough, McIlroy, Clarke, Shannon, Elliott.					
Barrow	Hindle; O'Donnell, Buchanan; Lee, Wilson, Rogers; Layton, Collins, Gordon, Keen, Hannah.					
Referee	J Houston, of St Annes-on-Sea.					
Attendance	10,516 (receipts £809-6s-6d).					

1952-53			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Tue	Sep 30	Accrington Stanley v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1		
2	Wed	Oct 1	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	2-2		
	Tue	Oct 14	+ Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	1-3		
3	Tue	Oct 28	Burnley v. Preston North End	0-1		
4	Wed	Oct 15	Chester v. Barrow	2-2		
	Thu	Oct 23	+ Barrow v. Chester	0-1		
5	Wed	Oct 15	Everton v. Manchester United	0-1		
6	Wed	Oct 22	Manchester City v. Liverpool	2-1		
7	Tue	Oct 14	Rochdale v. Blackpool	0-1		
8	Tue	Oct 14	Southport v. Oldham Athletic	1-0		
Round 2						
1	Wed	Mar 4	Chester v. Accrington Stanley	3-1		
2	Wed	Mar 18	Manchester United v. Blackpool	1-0		
3	Tue	Feb 24	Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	1-0		
4	Tue	Feb 24	Southport v. Manchester City	0-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 8	Chester v. Manchester United	3-2	5,295	
2	Wed	Apr 8	Manchester City v. Preston North End	2-0	2,692	
Final						
Wed, May 6, at Sealand Road, Chester.						
Manchester City	5	(Revie, Whitfield 3, Davies)				
Chester	1	(Travis(pen))				
Manchester City	Gourlay; Beecher, Little; Revie, Rigby, McTavish; Davies, Hart, Whitfield, Williamson, Clarke.					
Chester	Port; Morement, Gill; Pilkington, Lee, Astbury; Deakin, Whitlock, Travis, Smith, Windle.					
Referee	JH Clough, of Bolton.					
Attendance	4,407 (receipts £448-18s-0d).					

1953-54 and 1954-55

1953-54			Number of entrants: 16.		
Round 1					
1	Wed	Oct 21	Accrington Stanley v. Oldham Athletic	3-0	
2	Wed	Oct 28	Blackpool v. Burnley	6-0	
3	Tue	Oct 20	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	
	Tue	Nov 3	+ Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2	aet.
	Thu	Nov 19	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	3-4	
4	Wed	Nov 4	Chester v. Manchester United	1-0	
5	Wed	Oct 21	Everton v. Liverpool	1-2	
6	Wed	Nov 4	Manchester City v. Barrow	2-1	
7	Wed	Oct 21	Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	3-0	
8	Tue	Oct 20	Rochdale v. Southport	0-2	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Mar 8	Accrington Stanley v. Blackpool	2-2	
	Mon	Mar 15	+ Accrington Stanley v. Blackpool	1-2	
2	Tue	Feb 23	Bury v. Southport	3-0	
3	Wed	Mar 31	Liverpool v. Chester	4-2	
4	Wed	Mar 24	Preston North End v. Manchester City	1-2	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Apr 5	Bury v. Blackpool	1-1	3,904
	Mon	Apr 12	+ Blackpool v. Bury	2-1	5,373
2	Mon	Apr 26	Liverpool v. Manchester City	1-0	3,225

Final

Thu, May 6, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.

Blackpool	1	(Withers)
Liverpool	1	(T Rowley)
Blackpool	Wyllie; Gratrix, Frith; McKnight, Ainscough, Kelly; Harris, Mudie, Durie, Lythgoe, Withers.	
Liverpool	Ashcroft; Childs, Lambert; Saunders, Tomley, Campbell; Anderson, T Rowley, Arnell, A Rowley, A'Court.	
Referee	RP Hartley, of Burnley.	
Attendance	4,733 (receipts £420-0s-3d).	

Final replay

Sat, May 8, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.

Blackpool	3	(Durie, Harris 2)
Liverpool	0	
Blackpool	Wyllie; Gratrix, Frith; McKnight, Ainscough, Kelly; Harris, Mudie, Hepton, Durie, Withers.	
Liverpool	Ashcroft; Childs, Parr; Saunders, Tomley, Campbell; Anderson, T Rowley, Arnell, A Rowley, A'Court.	
Referee	RP Hartley, of Burnley.	
Attendance	5,904 (receipts £511-19s-6d).	

1954-55			Number of entrants: 16.		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Nov 1	Accrington Stanley v. Everton	3-2	
2	Tue	Oct 26	Burnley v. Blackpool	4-1	
3	Tue	Nov 23	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	0-1	
4	Wed	Oct 27	Liverpool v. Chester	3-0	
5	Wed	Nov 3	Manchester City v. Barrow	2-2	
	Mon	Jan 3	+ Barrow v. Manchester City	4-2	aet.
6	Wed	Oct 20	Preston North End v. Manchester United	1-0	
7	Wed	Oct 6	Rochdale v. Blackburn Rovers	4-1	
8	Tue	Oct 19	Southport v. Oldham Athletic	1-2	
Round 2					
1	Thu	Mar 31	Accrington Stanley v. Oldham Athletic	1-3	
2	Wed	Mar 16	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	2-2	aet.
	Mon	Apr 4	+ Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	1-0	
3	Sat	Jan 29	Liverpool v. Barrow	2-2	
	Thu	Mar 10	+ Barrow v. Liverpool	5-1	
4	Mon	Feb 14	Rochdale v. Burnley	2-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Thu	Apr 28	Barrow v. Preston North End	4-0	4,477
2	Mon	Mar 28	Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	0-1	5,510

Final

Sat, May 14, at Holker Street, Barrow.

Barrow	2	(Collins, Gordon)
Oldham Athletic	0	
Barrow	Hindle; Renshaw, Buchanan; Proctor, Holt, Keen; Codd, Layton, Gordon, Collins, Glover.	
Oldham Athletic	D'Arcy; Brook, Hardwick; Hobson, Naylor, Scrine; Walker, Crook, Travis, Chaytor, Kerr.	
Referee	FH Gerrard, of Preston.	
Attendance	6,110 (receipts £520-19s-9d).	

1955-56			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Oct 17	Accrington Stanley v. Chester	2-3		
2	Mon	Nov 7	Barrow v. Oldham Athletic	2-1		
3	Wed	Mar 14	Blackpool v. Preston North End	0-1		
4	Tue	Oct 25	Bury v. Liverpool	3-3		
	Wed	Nov 2	+ Liverpool v. Bury	3-2		aet.
5	Wed	Dec 14	Manchester City v. Burnley	2-2		
	Mon	Dec 19	+ Burnley v. Manchester City	3-4		
6	Wed	Nov 9	Manchester United v. Everton	1-0		
7	Mon	Oct 24	Rochdale v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1		
	Wed	Feb 15	+ Rochdale v. Bolton Wanderers	2-0		
8	Tue	Oct 18	Southport v. Blackburn Rovers	1-4		
Round 2						
1	Thu	Apr 5	Barrow v. Manchester City	3-2		
2	Wed	Feb 8	Manchester United v. Liverpool	1-1		
	Wed	Mar 14	+ Liverpool v. Manchester United	3-1		
3	Mon	Mar 26	Preston North End v. Chester	2-0		
4	Wed	Mar 7	Rochdale v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 11	Liverpool v. Barrow	5-1	2,916	
2	Thu	Apr 19	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	1-0	1,068	
Final						
Thu, May 3, at Anfield, Liverpool.						
Liverpool		4	(White, Twentyman, Bimpson, Arnell)			
Blackburn Rovers		4	(Crossan 2, Campbell, Briggs)			
Liverpool		Rudham; Molyneux, Moran; White, South, Twentyman; Jackson, Arnell, Bimpson, Evans, A'Court.				
Blackburn Rovers		Elvy; Taylor, Eckersley; Smith, Kelly, Bell; Douglas, Crossan, Briggs, Quigley, Campbell.				
Referee		JL Wood, of Bury.				
Attendance		6,048 (receipts £593-19s-6d).				
Final replay						
Wed, Oct 24, at Anfield, Liverpool.						
Liverpool		2	(A'Court, Liddell)			
Blackburn Rovers		0				
Liverpool		Rudham; McNulty, Moran; Wilkinson, Hughes, Saunders; Bimpson, Anderson, Liddell, Evans, A'Court.				
Blackburn Rovers		Patterson; Taylor, Kelly; R Clayton, Herron, K Clayton; Douglas, Dobing, Briggs, Vernon, Smith.				
Referee		JL Wood, of Bury.				
Attendance		6,581 (receipts £668-1s-0d).				

1956-57			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Tue	Feb 26	Accrington Stanley v. Manchester United	3-0		
2	Thu	Sep 27	Blackburn Rovers v. Oldham Athletic	0-1		
3	Tue	Feb 5	Burnley v. Blackpool	4-0		
4	Tue	Mar 12	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	5-2		
5	Wed	Nov 7	Liverpool v. Barrow	3-0		
6	Mon	Nov 19	Manchester City v. Everton	2-2		
	Wed	Dec 5	+ Everton v. Manchester City	3-1		
7	Mon	Oct 8	Preston North End v. Southport	2-2		
	Tue	Oct 23	+ Southport v. Preston North End	2-1		
8	Mon	Oct 29	Rochdale v. Chester	0-3		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Apr 1	Accrington Stanley v. Chester	0-1		
2	Tue	Apr 9	Bury v. Burnley	1-2		
3	Wed	Feb 27	Liverpool v. Oldham Athletic	8-2		
4	Sat	Jan 5	Southport v. Everton	3-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 17	Burnley v. Southport	1-0	1,174	
2	Wed	May 1	Chester v. Liverpool	2-1	2,625	
Final						
Wed, Oct 2, at Sealand Road, Chester.						
Chester		1	(Fields)			
Burnley		0				
Chester		Griffiths; Hughes, Souter; Whitlock, Saunders, Anderson; Foulkes, Williams, Jepson, Fields, Bullock.				
Burnley		Blacklaw; Marshall, Winton; Appleton, Appleby, Wilson; Meredith, Fenton, Shackleton, Cheesebrough, Scott.				
Referee		JS McLoughlin, of Middleton.				
Attendance		2,661 (receipts £275-3s-0d).				

1957-58 and 1958-59

1957-58			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Feb 10	Accrington Stanley v. Chester	3-0		
2	Thu	Nov 7	Barrow v. Blackpool	1-0		
3	Tue	Nov 12	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	4-0		
4	Tue	Nov 12	Bury v. Everton	2-0		
5	Wed	Dec 11	Liverpool v. Southport	2-1		
6	Wed	Nov 6	Manchester United v. Bolton Wanderers	3-1		
7	Mon	Nov 4	Preston North End v. Oldham Athletic	4-2		
8	Mon	Dec 2	Rochdale v. Manchester City	0-2		
Round 2						
1	Tue	Apr 1	Accrington Stanley v. Preston North End	2-3		
2	Tue	Mar 18	Burnley v. Liverpool	2-3		
3	Wed	Apr 9	Bury v. Manchester United	1-0		
4	Mon	Mar 24	Manchester City v. Barrow	3-0		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 30	Bury v. Barrow	4-1	1,588	
2	Mon	Apr 28	Liverpool v. Preston North End	1-1		
	Mon	May 5	+ Liverpool v. Preston North End	1-2		

Final

Wed, May 7, at Gigg Lane, Bury.

Bury	2	(Reid 2)
Preston North End	1	(Neill(og))
Bury	Adams; Robertson, Conroy; May, Bunner, Neill; Mercer, Daniel, Darbyshire, Reid, Pimlott.	
Preston North End	Kelly; Brown, Heys; Downey, Richardson, Smith; Dagger, Byrne, Waterhouse, Foster, Lambert.	
Referee	H Haworth, of Blackburn.	
Attendance	2,376 (receipts £240-10s-0d).	

BURY FOOTBALL CLUB CO. LTD.

GIGG LANE - BURY

PROGRAMME LANCS. SENIOR CUP One Penny

Final Tie

BURY v. PRESTON NORTH END

Wednesday, 7th May, 1958

The programme for the 1957-58 final at Gigg Lane, Bury

1958-59			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Thu	Oct 16	Barrow v. Southport	1-0		
2	Mon	Oct 27	Blackpool v. Oldham Athletic	2-0		
3	Mon	Oct 27	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	3-2		
4	Tue	Oct 28	Burnley v. Accrington Stanley	4-1		
5	Wed	Nov 19	Chester v. Everton	1-4		
6	Wed	Nov 5	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	4-1		
7	Mon	Oct 27	Manchester United v. Manchester City	5-4		
8	Mon	Oct 13	Preston North End v. Rochdale	1-1		
	Mon	Oct 27	+ Rochdale v. Preston North End	1-0		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Dec 15	Blackpool v. Barrow	3-0		
2	Tue	Dec 16	Burnley v. Everton	0-2		
3	Wed	Feb 11	Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers	3-0		
4	Mon	Dec 8	Manchester United v. Rochdale	3-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Apr 22	Blackpool v. Everton	1-2	2,846	
2	Wed	Mar 11	Liverpool v. Manchester United	3-2	10,644	

Final

Tue, May 5, at Anfield, Liverpool.

Liverpool	1	(Liddell)
Everton	0	
Liverpool	Younger; Molyneux, Moran; Wheeler, White, Wilkinson; Morris, Melia, Liddell, Arnell, A'Court.	
Everton	Dunlop; Parker, Branwell; B Harris, Jones, Meagan; J Harris, Thomas, Hickson, Wignall, Laverick.	
Referee	W Hickson, of Wigan.	
Attendance	22,193 (receipts £2,530-15s-0d).	

1959-60			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Oct 28	Accrington Stanley v. Rochdale	0-1		
2	Thu	Oct 29	Barrow v. Manchester United	2-4		
3	Tue	Oct 27	Blackburn Rovers v. Southport	1-1		
	Tue	Nov 24	+ Southport v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	aet.	
	Tue	Dec 1	+ Southport v. Blackburn Rovers	0-4		
4	Mon	Oct 19	Blackpool v. Chester	2-2		
	Wed	Oct 28	+ Chester v. Blackpool	2-0		
5	Wed	Dec 9	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	2-5		
6	Mon	Nov 23	Burnley v. Manchester City	5-1		
7	Mon	Nov 9	Everton v. Bury	2-2		
	Tue	Nov 17	+ Bury v. Everton	4-1		
8	Mon	Nov 23	Liverpool v. Oldham Athletic	8-0		
Round 2						
1	Wed	Jan 13	Chester v. Burnley	1-3		
2	Wed	Jan 20	Manchester United v. Bury	6-0		
3	Tue	Feb 9	Preston North End v. Rochdale	2-1		
4	Wed	Feb 24	Liverpool v. Blackburn Rovers	2-0		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Mar 30	Liverpool v. Manchester United	0-0		
	Mon	Apr 4	+ Manchester United v. Liverpool	2-0	8,155	
2	Tue	Mar 22	Preston North End v. Burnley	0-3		
Final						
Tue, Apr 12, at Turf Moor, Burnley.						
Burnley		4	(Joyce, Lochhead 2, Harris)			
Manchester United		2	(Smith, Scanlon)			
Burnley		Furnell; Smith, Marshall; Joyce, Talbut, Scott; Meredith, Lawson, Lochhead, Fenton, Harris.				
Manchester United		Gaskell; Greaves, Heron; Bratt, Haydock, Elms; Scanlon, Chisnall, Smith, Lawton, McDowall.				
Referee		F Collinge, of Rochdale.				
Attendance		3,831 (receipts £320-18s-6d).				

1960-61			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Tue	Nov 8	Burnley v. Southport	1-0		
2	Tue	Oct 25	Bury v. Accrington Stanley	1-0		
3	Wed	Oct 26	Chester v. Blackburn Rovers	1-4		
4	Mon	Nov 7	Liverpool v. Blackpool	2-0		
5	Mon	Nov 14	Manchester City v. Rochdale	0-1		
6	Wed	Dec 7	Manchester United v. Bolton Wanderers	3-1		
7	Tue	Dec 13	Oldham Athletic v. Everton	1-3		
8	Tue	Oct 18	Preston North End v. Barrow	5-0		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Mar 6	Blackburn Rovers v. Liverpool	2-1		
2	Tue	Feb 21	Burnley v. Rochdale	3-0		
3	Wed	Feb 22	Manchester United v. Everton	1-0		
4	Tue	Feb 28	Preston North End v. Bury	1-2		
Semi-Finals						
1	Mon	Apr 17	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester United	2-0	3,200	
2	Mon	Apr 17	Burnley v. Bury	2-0	3,493	
Final						
Tue, Apr 25, at Turf Moor, Burnley.						
Burnley		1	(Lawson)			
Blackburn Rovers		0				
Burnley		Furnell; Pickup, Smith; Walker, Talbut, Scott; Meredith, Lawson, Lochhead, Fenton, Towers.				
Blackburn Rovers		Reeves; Sims, Taylor; Leach, Appleby, Newton; Isherwood, Crowe, Pickering, Daly, Ratcliffe.				
Referee		A Jobling, of Morecambe.				
Attendance		5,225 (receipts £546-2s-3d).				

1961-62 and 1962-63

1961-62			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Oct 16	Barrow v. Southport	3-4		
2	Mon	Oct 16	Blackpool v. Accrington Stanley	0-1		
3	Tue	Oct 10	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2		
	Mon	Oct 30	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	4-3		
4	Mon	Oct 23	Liverpool v. Chester	4-0		
5	Mon	Oct 23	Manchester City v. Bolton Wanderers	3-4		
6	Mon	Oct 23	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	6-1		
7	Tue	Oct 17	Preston North End v. Burnley	1-2		
8	Wed	Oct 25	Rochdale v. Everton	1-0		
Round 2						
1	Thu	Apr 12	Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	4-1		
2	Tue	Apr 17	Liverpool v. Rochdale	0-0		
	Mon	May 7	+ Rochdale v. Liverpool	1-3		
3	Wed	Jan 17	Southport v. Manchester United	3-4		
4			Burnley - w/o.		Accrington Stanley scratched.	
Semi-Finals						
1	Mon	Apr 30	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	3-2	3,567	
2	Wed	May 9	Manchester United v. Liverpool	2-5	2,797	aet.
Final						
Fri, May 11, at Turf Moor, Burnley.						
Burnley	2	(Towers 2)				
Liverpool	1	(Scott)				
Burnley	Thomson; Smith, Marshall; Joyce, Talbut, O'Neil; Meredith, Simpson, Lochhead, Fenton, Towers.					
Liverpool	Lawrence; McKenzie, F Molyneux; Smith, Lawler, Ferns; Graham, Scott, Arrowsmith, Wallace, Tinney.					
Referee	K Dagnall, of Bolton.					
Attendance	9,217 (receipts £917-18s-3d).					

1962-63			Number of entrants: 15.		
Round 1					
1	Wed	Sep 26	Blackpool v. Rochdale	3-0	
2	Wed	Nov 14	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	4-0	
3	Wed	Oct 24	Chester v. Blackburn Rovers	3-2	
4	Wed	Oct 17	Everton v. Burnley	0-1	
5	Wed	Oct 24	Manchester City v. Manchester United	0-0	
	Mon	Nov 12	+ Manchester United v. Manchester City	2-0	
6	Wed	Nov 14	Oldham Athletic v. Barrow	3-0	
7	Wed	Oct 24	Southport v. Liverpool	1-3	
			Preston North End - bye.		
Round 2					
1	Wed	Apr 3	Blackpool v. Burnley	3-1	
2	Wed	Nov 28	Chester v. Manchester United	0-5	
3			Liverpool v. Bolton Wanderers		not played.
4	Wed	May 22	Oldham Athletic v. Preston North End	3-5	
Semi-Finals					
The Semi-Finals were not drawn.					

The programme for the game between Oldham Athletic and Preston North End, the last game played in the abandoned competition of 1962-63

1963-64 and 1964-65

1963-64			Number of entrants: 16.		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Nov 4	Barrow v. Preston North End	6-2	
2	Wed	Nov 6	Blackpool v. Southport	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 25	+ Southport v. Blackpool	5-3	aet.
3	Wed	Oct 30	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	
	Thu	Nov 21	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Bolton Wanderers	3-0	
4	Tue	Oct 29	Bury v. Liverpool	1-0	
5	Wed	Nov 27	Chester v. Rochdale	2-0	
6	Tue	Nov 12	Everton v. Oldham Athletic	4-1	
7	Mon	Nov 4	Manchester United v. Burnley	5-2	
8	Mon	Nov 11	Morecambe v. Manchester City	1-4	
Round 2					
1	Mon	Dec 16	Barrow v. Manchester United	0-3	
2	Wed	Jan 1	Bury v. Everton	2-3	
3	Wed	Jan 15	Chester v. Manchester City	0-0	aet.
	Wed	Jan 22	+ Manchester City v. Chester	3-0	
4	Wed	Jan 15	Southport v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2	
	Wed	Jan 29	+ Southport v. Blackburn Rovers	1-4	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Apr 13	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester City	5-1	
2	Tue	Mar 24	Manchester United v. Everton	3-6	
Final					
Tue, Oct 6, at Goodison Park, Liverpool.					
Everton		7	(Sharples, Young 4, Hill, Vernon)		
Blackburn Rovers		1	(Holden)		
Everton		West; Wright, Curwen; Sharples, Heslop, Rees; Shaw, Hill, Young, Vernon, Veall.			
Blackburn Rovers		Jones; Bray, Wilson; Sims, Holt, Anderson; Horrey, Bradshaw, Blore, Holden, Rogers.			
Referee		CF Duxbury, of Preston.			
Attendance		5,440 (receipts £614-16s-6d).			

1964-65			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Oct 28	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool	1-1		
	Tue	Nov 3	+ Blackpool v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1		aet.
	Tue	Nov 17	+ Blackpool v. Bolton Wanderers	2-2		aet.
	Wed	Jan 27	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool	1-2		
2	Tue	Nov 3	Bury v. Rochdale	2-1		
3	Wed	Oct 28	Chester v. Burnley	0-0		
	Tue	Dec 15	+ Burnley v. Chester	8-1		
4	Tue	Nov 10	Chorley v. Preston North End	1-2		
5	Tue	Nov 3	Everton v. Manchester City	0-0		
	Tue	Nov 17	+ Manchester City v. Everton	0-2		
6	Mon	Nov 16	Manchester United v. Liverpool	0-2		
7	Tue	Nov 24	Oldham Athletic v. Blackburn Rovers	0-9		
8	Tue	Nov 3	Southport v. Barrow	3-1		
Round 2						
1	Wed	Feb 17	Blackburn Rovers v. Liverpool	0-4		
2	Tue	Mar 9	Everton v. Burnley	1-3		
3	Mon	Feb 22	Preston North End v. Bury	3-1		
4	Mon	Feb 22	Southport v. Blackpool	2-0		
Semi-Finals						
1	Tue	Mar 30	Burnley v. Preston North End	5-1	3,166	
2	Tue	Mar 30	Southport v. Liverpool	3-0	1,731	
Final						
Mon, Apr 12, at Turf Moor, Burnley.						
Burnley		2	(Pointer, Towers)			
Southport		0				
Burnley		Blacklaw; Smith, Buxton; Walker, Merrington, Kinsella; Price, Coates, Pointer, Towers, Latcham.				
Southport		Harris; Jackson, K Cairns; Peat, Darvell, Beanland; Dagger, Russell, Spence, R Cairns, Watt.				
Referee		JW Bullough, of Bolton.				
Attendance		4,565 (receipts £522-18s-3d).				

1965-66 and 1966-67

1965-66			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Oct 18	Barrow v. Liverpool	3-2		
2	Tue	Jan 4	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	0-0		
	Mon	Mar 21	+ Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	1-2		
3	Tue	Nov 23	Chorley v. Burnley	1-1		
	Tue	Dec 21	+ Burnley v. Chorley	4-0		
4	Tue	Oct 26	Everton v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2		
	Tue	Mar 15	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Everton	2-1		
5	Mon	Nov 1	Manchester United v. Preston North End	0-1		
6	Wed	Nov 17	Oldham Athletic v. Chester	2-3		
7	Tue	Nov 2	Rochdale v. Manchester City	1-0		
8	Mon	Oct 25	Southport v. Blackpool	1-3		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Apr 4	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1		
2	Wed	Mar 30	Bury v. Barrow	0-2		
3	Wed	Feb 23	Chester v. Rochdale	1-3		
4	Mon	Jan 31	Preston North End v. Burnley	0-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Thu	Apr 14	Barrow v. Blackpool	3-2	4,151	
2	Thu	Apr 14	Burnley v. Rochdale	2-0	1,338	
Final						

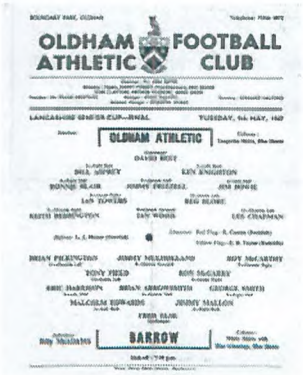
Mon, May 16, at Holker Street, Barrow.

Burnley	4 (Latcham, Bellamy, Kinsella, Blant)
Barrow	0
Burnley	Blacklaw; Smith, Buxton; Merrington, Talbut, Todd; Latcham, Coates, Blant, Bellamy, Kinsella.
Barrow	Duffin; Mallon, Edwards; Eddy, Rawlingson, Smith; Marshall, Hartland, Mulholland, Alston, Pilkington.
Referee	SJ Kayley, of Preston.
Attendance	7,158 (receipts £1,142-14s-9d).

1966-67			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Oct 24	Barrow v. Manchester City	5-2		
2	Tue	Nov 1	Blackburn Rovers v. Burnley	0-0		
	Tue	Mar 7	+ Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	0-2		
3	Wed	Nov 30	Blackpool v. Everton	2-1		
4	Tue	Oct 11	Morecambe v. Bolton Wanderers	2-0		
5	Wed	Sep 21	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	2-1		
6	Tue	Dec 6	Rochdale v. Bury	1-2		
7	Mon	Oct 24	Southport v. Liverpool	1-1		
	Tue	Nov 29	+ Southport v. Liverpool	3-2	aet.	
8	Mon	Nov 7	Wigan Athletic v. Preston North End	1-2		
Round 2						
1	Tue	Feb 7	Morecambe v. Barrow	1-2		
2	Tue	Dec 13	Oldham Athletic v. Bury	2-1		
3	Tue	Feb 28	Southport v. Blackpool	3-0		
4	Tue	Mar 14	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	0-0		
	Mon	Mar 20	+ Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Mon	Apr 3	Barrow v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0	4,925	
2	Tue	Mar 21	Oldham Athletic v. Southport	2-1		
Final						

Tue, May 9, at Boundary Park, Oldham.

Oldham Athletic	2 (Towers 2)
Barrow	0
Oldham Athletic	Best; Asprey, Knighton; Blair, Frizzell, Bowie; Bebbington, Towers, Wood, Blore, Chapman. sub not used: Collins.
Barrow	Else; Mallon, Edwards (sub. McAdams); Hartland, Arrowsmith, Harrison; McCarthy, McGarry, Mulholland, Field, Pilkington.
Referee	LJ Hamer, of Horwich.
Attendance	3,512 (receipts £803-0s-3d).



The programme for the 1966-67 Final at Boundary Park, Oldham

1967-68			Number of entrants: 18 (14 clubs given a bye to Round 2).			
Round 1						
1	Tue	Oct 31	Liverpool v. Everton	5-2		
2	Tue	Dec 5	Morecambe v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Nov 20	Barrow v. Bolton Wanderers	4-1		
2	Tue	Oct 17	Burnley v. Preston North End	5-0		
3	Tue	Oct 24	Chorley v. Blackpool	2-2		
	Mon	Dec 11	+ Blackpool v. Chorley	2-2	aet.	
	Tue	Jan 16	+ Chorley v. Blackpool	2-1		
4	Thu	Jan 18	Netherfield v. Morecambe	0-1		
5	Tue	Nov 28	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	2-1		
6	Tue	Oct 31	Rochdale v. Manchester United	1-1		
	Mon	Jan 15	+ Manchester United v. Rochdale	7-0		
7	Mon	Jan 1	Southport v. Liverpool	1-2		
8	Mon	Nov 6	Wigan Athletic v. Bury	1-1		
	Tue	Nov 14	+ Bury v. Wigan Athletic	3-0		
Round 3						
1	Mon	Mar 25	Barrow v. Manchester United	3-1		
2	Tue	Mar 5	Burnley v. Chorley	2-0		
3	Tue	Mar 12	Morecambe v. Bury	1-0		
4	Tue	Feb 20	Oldham Athletic v. Liverpool	1-1		
	Tue	Apr 9	+ Oldham Athletic v. Liverpool	1-0		
Semi-Finals						
1	Mon	Apr 29	Burnley v. Barrow	1-0	2,063	
2	Mon	Apr 22	Oldham Athletic v. Morecambe	0-1		
Final						

Mon, May 13, at Christie Park, Morecambe.

Morecambe	2	(Timmins 2(1pen))
Burnley	1	(Dobson)
Morecambe	Millard; Varcoe, Baldwin; Halstead, Irving, Crompton; Porter, Martin (sub. Holding), Borrowdale, Timmins, Lea.	
Burnley	Jones; Smith, Buxton; Bellamy (sub. R Ternent), Merrington, Kinsella; Coates, Casper, Dobson, Thomas, Kindon.	
Referee	JA Warburton, of Manchester.	
Attendance	4,230 (receipts £822-6s-0d).	

1968-69			Number of entrants: 18 (14 clubs given a bye to Round 2).			
Round 1						
1	Mon	Oct 7	Manchester United v. Netherfield	5-0		
2	Tue	Sep 24	Morecambe v. Blackpool	2-0		
Round 2						
1	Tue	Oct 29	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester United	0-2		
2	Tue	Oct 15	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	4-1		
3	Tue	Oct 22	Burnley v. Liverpool	0-1		
4	Tue	Oct 22	Chorley v. Barrow	1-2		
5	Tue	Oct 22	Everton v. Preston North End	0-1		
6	Tue	Oct 22	Manchester City v. Morecambe	2-1		
7	Tue	Oct 22	Oldham Athletic v. Rochdale	1-1		
	Mon	Oct 28	+ Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	2-2	aet.	
	Mon	Nov 25	+ Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	0-1		
8	Wed	Oct 16	Southport v. Wigan Athletic	1-0		
Round 3						
1	Wed	Dec 11	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	1-2		
2	Tue	Dec 10	Liverpool v. Preston North End	1-0		
3	Mon	Dec 30	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	0-0		
	Mon	Jan 13	+ Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	4-2		
4	Fri	Jan 3	Southport v. Barrow	0-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Sat	Jan 25	Barrow v. Manchester United	1-3	6,777	
2	Mon	Mar 10	Manchester City v. Liverpool	0-1		
Final						

Wed, Apr 16, at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Manchester United	1	(Gowling)
Liverpool	0	
Manchester United	Stepney; Brennan, Burns; Murphy, Foulkes, Watson; Ryan, Sartori, Givens, Gowling, Kelly. sub not used: Goodeve.	
Liverpool	Clemence; Wall, Byrne; Evans, Ross, Lindsay; McLaughlin, Livermore, Marsh, Boersma, Hall. sub not used: Peplow.	
Referee	SJ Kayley, of Preston.	
Attendance	4,299 (receipts £952-3s-0d).	

1969-70 and 1970-71

1969-70			Number of entrants: 19 (1 club exempted, plus 12 clubs given a bye, to Round 2).			
Round 1						
1	Tue	Sep 16	Chorley v. Manchester City	1-2		
2	Tue	Sep 9	Oldham Athletic v. Liverpool	5-3		
3	Thu	Sep 25	Wigan Athletic v. Southport	2-1		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Oct 20	Barrow v. Preston North End	2-1		
2	Wed	Oct 29	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0		
3	Tue	Oct 21	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	1-2		
4	Wed	Sep 24	Burnley v. Rochdale	2-0		
5	Tue	Oct 28	Bury v. Everton	2-2		
	Wed	Nov 12	+ Bury v. Everton	4-2		
6	Mon	Sep 1	Morecambe v. Netherfield	1-2		
7	Tue	Oct 21	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	1-1		
	Mon	Nov 3	+ Manchester City v. Oldham Athletic	1-1		
	Wed	Jan 14	+ Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	3-0		
8	Mon	Oct 15	Wigan Athletic v. Great Harwood	0-0		
	Mon	Nov 3	+ Great Harwood v. Wigan Athletic	2-0		
Round 3						
1	Mon	Dec 15	Barrow v. Netherfield	1-1		
	Tue	Jan 13	+ Netherfield v. Barrow	0-1		
2	Tue	Dec 9	Burnley v. Bury	2-0		
3	Mon	Dec 8	Great Harwood v. Manchester United	1-8		
4	Tue	Feb 3	Oldham Athletic v. Blackpool	1-1		
	Tue	Feb 24	+ Blackpool v. Oldham Athletic	1-2		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	Feb 4	Barrow v. Manchester United	0-0	5,478	
	Wed	Mar 11	+ Manchester United v. Barrow	1-2	6,077	aet.
2	Wed	Mar 18	Burnley v. Oldham Athletic	4-0		

Final

Thu, Apr 9, at Turf Moor, Burnley.

Burnley	3	(Nulty, Arrowsmith(og), Kinsella(pen))
Barrow	2	(Mulvaney, Hartland)
Burnley	Jones; Docherty, Ternent; O'Neil (sub. Cliff), Waldron, Wrigley; Collins, Probert, Nulty, Kindon, Kinsella.	
Barrow	Elliott; Dean, Cooper; Davis, Arrowsmith, Hartland; Garbett, Morrin, Hollis, Mulvaney, Storf. sub not used: Hopkinson.	
Referee	D Laing, of Preston.	
Attendance	3,251 (receipts £760-4s-0d).	

1970-71			Number of entrants: 19 (13 clubs given a bye to Round 2).			
Round 1						
1	Wed	Sep 16	Burnley v. Rochdale	1-1		
	Wed	Sep 23	+ Rochdale v. Burnley	1-0		
2	Tue	Sep 29	Everton v. Manchester United	1-0		
3	Mon	Aug 31	Morecambe v. Netherfield	2-2		
	Tue	Oct 13	+ Netherfield v. Morecambe	2-1		
Round 2						
1	Mon	Oct 5	Barrow v. Liverpool	1-2		
2	Tue	Oct 13	Blackburn Rovers v. Rochdale	0-2		
3	Mon	Oct 12	Blackpool v. Everton	1-1		
	Wed	Oct 28	+ Blackpool v. Everton	1-2		
4	Tue	Oct 13	Great Harwood v. Oldham Athletic	2-2		
	Tue	Oct 27	+ Oldham Athletic v. Great Harwood	9-0		
5	Mon	Oct 19	Manchester City v. Bolton Wanderers	2-1		
6	Mon	Oct 26	Preston North End v. Bury	1-2		
7	Mon	Nov 2	Southport v. Netherfield	2-0		
8	Mon	Oct 19	Wigan Athletic v. Chorley	0-0		
	Wed	Oct 28	+ Chorley v. Wigan Athletic	3-2		
Round 3						
1	Tue	Dec 1	Chorley v. Bury	4-2		
2	Mon	Feb 15	Rochdale v. Everton	3-1		
3	Tue	Dec 1	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	1-1		
	Sat	Jan 2	+ Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	4-1		
4	Tue	Dec 1	Southport v. Liverpool	1-1		
	Fri	Jan 1	+ Southport v. Liverpool	0-2		
Semi-Finals						
1	Thu	Mar 4	Chorley v. Rochdale	0-0		
	Mon	Mar 29	+ Rochdale v. Chorley	2-1	1,410	
2	Tue	Feb 16	Oldham Athletic v. Liverpool	1-0	2,984	

Final

Mon, May 3, at Spotland, Rochdale.

Rochdale	3	(Cross 2, Ashworth)
Oldham Athletic	2	(Hartle, Shaw)
Rochdale	Godfrey; Smith, Ryder; Gowans, Blair, Ashworth; Whitehead, Downes, Cross, Jenkins, Butler. sub not used: Parry.	
Oldham Athletic	Ogden; Wood, Whittle; McNeill, Cranston, Bowie; Sweeney, Shaw, Fryatt, Robins, Hartle. sub not used: Hoolickin.	
Referee	R Matthewson, of Worsley.	
Attendance	7,003 (receipts £1,758.08).	

1971-72			Number of entrants: 16.		
Round 1					
1	Tue	Sep 7	Burnley v. Barrow	2-0	
2	Tue	Nov 2	Chorley v. Bolton Wanderers	2-0	
3	Mon	Sep 20	Liverpool v. Bury	2-1	
4	Tue	Oct 12	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	0-1	
5	Wed	Oct 27	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	
	Wed	Nov 10	+ Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	1-2	
6	Wed	Oct 13	Rochdale v. Blackpool	3-0	
7	Tue	Nov 2	Southport v. Everton	1-0	
8	Mon	Sep 20	Wigan Athletic v. Manchester City	2-0	
Round 2					
1	Tue	Dec 7	Burnley v. Southport	2-2	
	Tue	Dec 14	+ Southport v. Burnley	1-2	
2	Tue	Nov 30	Chorley v. Preston North End	4-1	
3	Mon	Dec 6	Rochdale v. Manchester United	1-1	
	Wed	Dec 22	+ Manchester United v. Rochdale	4-1	
4	Wed	Nov 24	Wigan Athletic v. Liverpool	0-2	
Semi-Finals					
1	Wed	Mar 29	Burnley v. Liverpool	1-0	
2	Tue	Mar 21	Chorley v. Manchester United	2-2	4,317
	Wed	Mar 29	+ Manchester United v. Chorley	3-1	2,265

Final

Thu, Apr 20, at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Manchester United	2	(Young, Whelan)
Burnley	2	(Kindon, Bellamy)
Manchester United	Rimmer; Donald, Burns; Gowling, Fairhurst, Greenhoff; Sartori, Young, Abbott, Whelan, Aston. sub not used: Jones.	
Burnley	Parton; Cliff, Wilson; Welch, McMahon, Rodaway; Bradshaw, Bellamy, Hankin, Collins, Kindon. sub not used: Brennan.	
Referee	GW Jones, of Lancaster.	
Attendance	not known (receipts £452.35).	

Final replay

Tue, May 2, at Turf Moor, Burnley.

Burnley	3	(Dobson, James 2)
Manchester United	0	
Burnley	Stevenson; Docherty, Nulty; Dobson, Thomson, Rodaway; Ingham, Casper (sub. Kindon), Fletcher, Probert, James.	
Manchester United	Connaughton; Donald, Burns; Greenhoff, Fairhurst, Ure; Sartori, Young, Whelan, Gowling, Abbott. sub not used: Sidebottom.	
Referee	GW Jones, of Lancaster.	
Attendance	4,500 (receipts £1,263.65).	

1972-73			Number of entrants: 18 (14 clubs given a bye to Round 2).		
Round 1					
1	Thu	Sep 21	Morecambe v. Barrow	2-0	
2	Wed	Sep 13	Wigan Athletic v. Great Harwood	3-1	
Round 2					
1	Wed	Oct 4	Blackburn Rovers v. Oldham Athletic	1-2	
2	Tue	Oct 10	Blackpool v. Burnley	2-0	
3	Wed	Oct 25	Bolton Wanderers v. Chorley	0-1	
4	Tue	Sep 12	Bury v. Manchester United	2-1	
5	Tue	Oct 31	Morecambe v. Liverpool	1-2	
6	Mon	Oct 30	Preston North End v. Everton	2-2	
	Mon	Nov 13	+ Preston North End v. Everton	1-0	
7	Mon	Oct 16	Rochdale v. Manchester City	1-1	
	Wed	Nov 8	+ Manchester City v. Rochdale	2-4	
8	Wed	Oct 4	Wigan Athletic v. Southport	1-0	
Round 3					
1	Tue	Jan 9	Chorley v. Preston North End	1-5	
2	Tue	Dec 12	Oldham Athletic v. Blackpool	1-1	
	Tue	Dec 19	+ Blackpool v. Oldham Athletic	0-3	
3	Wed	Dec 13	Rochdale v. Bury	0-0	
	Sat	Jan 13	+ Bury v. Rochdale	5-1	
4	Mon	Dec 18	Wigan Athletic v. Liverpool	2-3	
Semi-Finals					
1	Tue	Feb 27	Oldham Athletic v. Bury	1-2	
2	Mon	Mar 26	Preston North End v. Liverpool	0-2	

Final

Tue, May 1, at Gigg Lane, Bury.

Liverpool	2	(Spiring, Kewley)
Bury	1	(Hamstead)
Liverpool	Lane; Kettle, Webb; Storton, Rylands, McLaughlin; Kewley, Spiring, Case, Brownbill, McAuley. sub not used: Tynan.	
Bury	Hancock; Tinney, Kennedy; Tinsley, Holt, Heslop; G Williams, B Williams, Warburton, Murray, Hamstead. sub not used: Gisbourne.	
Referee	IT Smith, of Accrington.	
Attendance	1,975 (receipts £603.50).	

1973-74 and 1982-83

1973-74			Number of entrants: 16.			
Round 1						
1	Tue	Oct 30	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	1-0		
2	Wed	Oct 24	Blackpool v. Wigan Athletic	2-0		
3	Mon	Oct 15	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	4-0		
4	Tue	Oct 23	Burnley v. Manchester United	0-0		
	Thu	Apr 4	+ Manchester United v. Burnley	3-1		
5	Tue	Dec 4	Bury v. Liverpool	4-4		
	Tue	Dec 11	+ Bury v. Liverpool	2-1		
6	Tue	Oct 2	Chorley v. Everton	1-3		
7	Tue	Oct 9	Morecambe v. Southport	2-2		
	Tue	Oct 30	+ Southport v. Morecambe	1-1	aet.	
	Sun	Jan 20	+ Morecambe v. Southport	1-0		
8	Tue	Oct 30	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester City	1-2		
Round 2						
1	Tue	Jan 8	Bury v. Manchester City	1-3		
2	Tue	Feb 12	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool	1-0		
3	Thu	Apr 18	Manchester United v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0		
4	Tue	Apr 16	Morecambe v. Everton	0-0		
	Wed	May 1	+ Morecambe v. Everton	3-1		
Semi-Finals						
1	Wed	May 8	Morecambe v. Manchester United	1-0	3,014	
2	Tue	Apr 30	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester City	1-3		aet.
Final						

Sat, May 11, at Christie Park, Morecambe.

Manchester City	3	(Daniels 2, Carrodus)
Morecambe	0	
Manchester City	Corrigan; Connor, Pardoe; Barrett, Clarke, Henson; Carrodus, Keegan, Daniels, Leman, Power. sub not used: Coyne.	
Morecambe	Coates; Pearson, Bennett; Sutton, Street, Baldwin; Done, Richmond, Galley (sub. Kershaw), Roberts, Grundy.	
Referee	R Matthewson, of Bolton.	
Attendance	3,221.	

1974-75 to 1981-82: No Competition

1982-83		Number of entrants: 8.			
Group A					
Sat	Aug 14	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	2-2	2,559	
Sat	Aug 14	Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	3-2	2,942	
Tue	Aug 17	Blackpool v. Preston North End	2-1	3,824	
Tue	Aug 17	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	2,695	
Sat	Aug 21	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	3-1	3,248	
Sat	Aug 21	Blackpool v. Bolton Wanderers	2-2	2,661	

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackburn Rovers	3	2	1	0	6	3	1	8
Blackpool	3	1	2	0	6	5	0	5
Preston North End	3	1	0	2	5	7	1	4
Bolton Wanderers	3	0	1	2	4	6	0	1

Group B					
Sat	Aug 14	Burnley v. Oldham Athletic	1-1	4,459	
Sat	Aug 14	Bury v. Rochdale	2-1	1,726	
Tue	Aug 17	Oldham Athletic v. Bury	1-1	1,730	
Tue	Aug 17	Rochdale v. Burnley	0-0	2,591	
Sat	Aug 21	Burnley v. Bury	0-0	2,543	
Sat	Aug 21	Oldham Athletic v. Rochdale	2-2	1,971	also Charity Rose Bowl match.

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Bury	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	5
Oldham Athletic	3	0	3	0	4	4	0	3
Burnley	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	3
Rochdale	3	0	2	1	3	4	0	2

Final

Tue, Aug 24, at Gigg Lane, Bury.

Bury	2	(Hilton, Madden)
Blackburn Rovers	1	(Hilton(og))
Bury	Platt; Gardner, Kenworthy, Gore, Hilton, Bramhall, Firth, Madden, Parker, Jakub, Cruikshank. subs not used: Hughes, Cutler, Wann.	
Blackburn Rovers	Gennoe; Branagan, Rathbone, Hamilton, Mail, Fazackerley, Burke (sub. Murphy), Lowey, Bell, Garner, Brotherston.	
Referee	D Richardson, of Great Harwood.	
Attendance	2,873.	

1983-84		Number of entrants: 8.			
Group A					
Sat	Aug 13	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	4-2	1,780	
Sat	Aug 13	Preston North End v. Burnley	1-2	3,513	
Tue	Aug 16	Blackpool v. Preston North End	2-3	2,700	
Tue	Aug 16	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	6,451	
Sat	Aug 20	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	4-1	2,471	
Sat	Aug 20	Burnley v. Blackpool	0-0	3,954	

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackburn Rovers	3	2	1	0	9	4	2	9
Burnley	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	5
Preston North End	3	1	0	2	5	8	1	4
Blackpool	3	0	1	2	4	7	0	1

Group B					
Sat	Aug 13	Wigan Athletic v. Bury	1-2	2,046	
Sat	Aug 13	Rochdale v. Bolton Wanderers	3-3	1,550	
Tue	Aug 16	Bury v. Rochdale	2-2	1,849	
Tue	Aug 16	Wigan Athletic v. Bolton Wanderers	0-0	2,041	
Sat	Aug 20	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	2-3	2,173	
Sat	Aug 20	Rochdale v. Wigan Athletic	2-3	2,041	

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Bury	3	2	1	0	7	5	1	8
Wigan Athletic	3	1	1	1	4	4	1	5
Rochdale	3	0	2	1	7	8	1	3
Bolton Wanderers	3	0	2	1	5	6	1	3

Final

Tue, Aug 23, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Blackburn Rovers	0
Bury	0

Blackburn Rovers winners on penalties 3-1.

Blackburn Rovers	Gennoe; Branagan, Rathbone, Randell, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Lowey, Bell (sub. Thompson), Garner, Hamilton. subs not used: Byron, Patterson, Whalley, Devine.
Bury	Brown; Gardner, Pashley, Coleman, Hilton, Bramhall, Potts, Madden, Entwistle, Jakub, Park (sub. Carrodus). sub not used: Jones.
Referee	N Midgley, of Salford.
Attendance	3,615

1984-85		Number of entrants: 8.			
Group A					
Sat	Aug 11	Blackburn Rovers v. Bury	3-2	1,447	
Sat	Aug 11	Preston North End v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1	1,953	
Tue	Aug 14	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	1,723	
Tue	Aug 14	Preston North End v. Bury	0-0	1,206	
Sat	Aug 18	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	1-0	1,941	
Sat	Aug 18	Bury v. Bolton Wanderers	3-4	1,947	

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackburn Rovers	3	2	1	0	5	3	1	8
Bolton Wanderers	3	1	2	0	6	5	1	6
Preston North End	3	0	2	1	1	2	0	2
Bury	3	0	1	2	5	7	1	2

Group B					
Sat	Aug 11	Burnley v. Blackpool	1-0	2,035	
Sat	Aug 11	Wigan Athletic v. Rochdale	3-1	1,217	
Tue	Aug 14	Blackpool v. Wigan Athletic	0-0	1,633	
Tue	Aug 14	Rochdale v. Burnley	1-0	1,344	
Sat	Aug 18	Blackpool v. Rochdale	1-0	1,363	
Sat	Aug 18	Burnley v. Wigan Athletic	1-2	1,659	

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Wigan Athletic	3	2	1	0	5	2	1	8
Blackpool	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4
Burnley	3	1	0	2	2	3	0	3
Rochdale	3	1	0	2	2	4	0	3

Final

Tue, Aug 21, at Springfield Park, Wigan.

Wigan Athletic	2	(Barrow, Walsh)
Blackburn Rovers	1	(Johnson(og))

Wigan Athletic	Tunks; Butler, Comstive, Cribley, Walsh, Methven, Bailey, Barrow, Johnson, Lowe, Langley. subs not used: Bruce, Newell, Stewart, Kelly, Aspinall.
Blackburn Rovers	Gennoe; Branagan, Rathbone, Barker, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Lowey, Thompson, Garner, Brotherston. subs not used: O'Keefe, Hamilton, Mail, Quinn, Randell.
Referee	A Robinson, of Radcliffe.
Attendance	4,002.

1985-86 and 1986-87

1985-86		Number of entrants: 8.		
Group A				
Sat	Aug 3	Preston North End v. Blackpool	1-2	3,281
Mon	Aug 5	Blackburn Rovers v. Wigan Athletic	2-2	1,475
Wed	Aug 7	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	6-0	1,618
Wed	Aug 7	Wigan Athletic v. Preston North End	2-1	1,687
Sat	Aug 10	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	0-0	2,093
Sat	Aug 10	Blackpool v. Wigan Athletic	1-1	1,683

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackburn Rovers	3	1	2	0	8	2	1	6
Wigan Athletic	3	1	2	0	5	4	0	5
Blackpool	3	1	1	1	3	8	0	4
Preston North End	3	0	1	2	2	4	0	1

Group B				
Sat	Aug 3	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	2-0	1,829
Sat	Aug 3	Burnley v. Bury	1-3	1,970
Tue	Aug 6	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	1-0	2,718
Tue	Aug 6	Rochdale v. Burnley	0-7	1,099
Sat	Aug 10	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	4-0	2,720
Sat	Aug 10	Rochdale v. Bury	0-1	1,005

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Burnley	3	2	0	1	12	3	2	8
Bury	3	2	0	1	4	2	1	7
Bolton Wanderers	3	2	0	1	3	4	0	6
Rochdale	3	0	0	3	0	10	0	0

Final

Tue, Aug 13, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Blackburn Rovers	1 (Garner)
Burnley	0
Blackburn Rovers	Gennoe; Hamilton, Rathbone, Barker, Keeley, Mail, Miller, Lowey, Quinn, Garner, Brotherston. subs not used: O'Keefe, Fazackerley, Branagan, Thompson, Patterson.
Burnley	Neenan; Palmer, Hampton, Heggarty, Overson, Deakin, Grewcock, Malley, Taylor, Biggins, Hird. subs not used: Woodworth, Gallagher, Rhodes, Devine, Chippendale.
Referee	NL Wilson, of Morecambe.
Attendance	6,017.

1986-87		Number of entrants: 8.		
Group A				
Sat	Aug 9	Blackburn Rovers v. Rochdale	1-1	1,577
Sat	Aug 9	Bury v. Blackpool	3-3	1,392
Tue	Aug 12	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	0-0	2,198
Tue	Aug 12	Rochdale v. Bury	1-2	1,722
Sat	Aug 16	Blackpool v. Rochdale	0-0	1,175
Sat	Aug 16	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	3-1	1,463

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Bury	3	2	1	0	8	5	2	9
Blackpool	3	0	3	0	3	3	1	4
Rochdale	3	0	2	1	2	3	0	2
Blackburn Rovers	3	0	2	1	2	4	0	2

Group B				
Sat	Aug 9	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	0-0	2,000
Sat	Aug 9	Wigan Athletic v. Burnley	1-1	1,899
Tue	Aug 12	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	2-3	2,149
Wed	Aug 13	Preston North End v. Wigan Athletic	0-2	2,212
Sat	Aug 16	Bolton Wanderers v. Wigan Athletic	3-4	1,943
Sat	Aug 16	Burnley v. Preston North End	0-0	1,586

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Wigan Athletic	3	2	1	0	7	4	1	8
Bolton Wanderers	3	1	1	1	6	6	2	6
Burnley	3	0	2	1	3	4	0	2
Preston North End	3	0	2	1	0	2	0	2

Final

Tue, Aug 19, at Gigg Lane, Bury.

Bury	1 (Greenwood)
Wigan Athletic	0
Bury	Hughes; Ross, Pashley, Flynn, Valentine, Young, A Robinson, Butler, Taylor, Jakub, Greenwood. subs not used: Hoyland, L Robinson.
Wigan Athletic	Tunks; Butler, Knowles, Cook, Cribley, Beesley, Lowe, Thompson (sub. Griffiths), Jewell, Lowey, Houston (sub. Coleman).
Referee	D Allinson, of Lancaster.
Attendance	2,682.

1987-88		Number of entrants: 8.			
Group A					
Sat	Aug 1	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	2,304	
Sat	Aug 1	Burnley v. Blackpool	0-2	2,508	
Tue	Aug 4	Blackpool v. Bolton Wanderers	0-0	2,593	
Tue	Aug 4	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	2-1	5,108	
Fri	Aug 7	Blackburn Rovers v. Blackpool	3-2	2,529	
Fri	Aug 7	Bolton Wanderers v. Burnley	1-1	2,501	

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackburn Rovers	3	2	0	1	6	5	1	7
Blackpool	3	1	1	1	4	3	0	4
Burnley	3	1	1	1	3	4	0	4
Bolton Wanderers	3	0	2	1	2	3	0	2

Group B					
Sat	Aug 1	Preston North End v. Rochdale	1-0	1,935	
Mon	Aug 3	Bury v. Wigan Athletic	0-3	916	
Wed	Aug 5	Bury v. Rochdale	2-0	834	
Wed	Aug 5	Wigan Athletic v. Preston North End	1-1	2,119	
Fri	Aug 7	Preston North End v. Bury	0-1	2,304	
Fri	Aug 7	Wigan Athletic v. Rochdale	4-0	1,000	

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Wigan Athletic	3	2	1	0	8	1	2	9
Bury	3	2	0	1	3	3	0	6
Preston North End	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
Rochdale	3	0	0	3	0	7	0	0

Final

Tue, Aug 11, at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Blackburn Rovers	2	(Patterson, Campbell(og))
Wigan Athletic	2	(Beesley, Storer)

Blackburn Rovers winners on penalties 4-3.

Blackburn Rovers	O'Keefe; Price, Sulley, Barker, Hendry, Dawson, Gayle, Reid, Diamond, Garner, Patterson. subs not used: Gennoe, Curry, Millar, Ainscow, Hill.
Wigan Athletic	Tunks; Butler, Knowles; Hamilton, Cribley, Beesley; Storer, Thompson, Campbell, Jewell, Cook. subs not used: Hilditch, Ainscow.
Referee	T Fitzharris, of Bolton.
Attendance	4,414.

1988-89		Number of entrants: 8.			
Group A					
Sat	Aug 6	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	2-2	2,987	
Sat	Aug 6	Burnley v. Preston North End	0-1	5,456	
Tue	Aug 9	Blackpool v. Preston North End	1-1	3,335	
Tue	Aug 9	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	1-3	7,506	
Sat	Aug 13	Blackburn Rovers v. Preston North End	2-3	5,139	
Sat	Aug 13	Blackpool v. Burnley	2-1	3,042	

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Preston North End	3	2	1	0	5	3	1	8
Blackburn Rovers	3	1	1	1	7	6	1	5
Blackpool	3	1	2	0	5	4	0	5
Burnley	3	0	0	3	2	6	0	0

Group B					
Sat	Aug 6	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	1-0	2,256	
Sat	Aug 6	Rochdale v. Wigan Athletic	1-0	886	
Tue	Aug 9	Rochdale v. Bury	1-0	1,129	
Thu	Aug 11	Wigan Athletic v. Bolton Wanderers	0-1	965	
Sat	Aug 13	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	1-1	2,423	Bolton Wan. winners on penalties 5-4.
Sat	Aug 13	Wigan Athletic v. Bury	1-1	757	

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Bolton Wanderers	3	2	1	0	3	1	0	7
Rochdale	3	2	1	0	3	1	0	7
Bury	3	0	1	2	1	3	0	1
Wigan Athletic	3	0	1	2	1	3	0	1

Final

Tue, Aug 16, at Burnden Park, Bolton.

Bolton Wanderers	1	(Thomas)
Preston North End	0	

Bolton Wanderers	Felgate; Brown, Cowdrill, Darby, Came, Crombie, Brookman, Thompson, Thomas, Stevens, Chandler (sub. Savage).
Preston North End	Brown; Miller, Rathbone, Atkins, Wrightson, Allardyce, Mooney, N Williams (sub. Swann), O Williams (sub. Ellis), Brazil, Patterson.
Referee	D. Scott, of Burnley.
Attendance	5,757.

1989-90		Number of entrants: 8.		
Group A				
Sat	Aug 5	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	2-2	4,547
Sat	Aug 5	Wigan Athletic v. Blackburn Rovers	0-3	2,078
Tue	Aug 8	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	0-2	9,007
Tue	Aug 8	Wigan Athletic v. Bolton Wanderers	1-0	1,587
Sat	Aug 12	Burnley v. Wigan Athletic	0-2	3,277
Sat	Aug 12	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	3-1	2,920

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackburn Rovers	3	2	0	1	6	3	1	7
Wigan Athletic	3	2	0	1	3	3	0	6
Bolton Wanderers	3	1	1	1	5	4	1	5
Burnley	3	0	1	2	2	6	0	1

Group B				
Sat	Aug 5	Preston North End v. Bury	2-1	2,983
Sat	Aug 5	Rochdale v. Blackpool	0-0	1,083
Tue	Aug 8	Blackpool v. Preston North End	2-0	3,608
Tue	Aug 8	Rochdale v. Bury	1-3	1,382
Sat	Aug 12	Bury v. Blackpool	0-0	1,564
Sat	Aug 12	Preston North End v. Rochdale	1-2	2,160

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackpool	3	1	2	0	2	0	0	5
Bury	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	5
Rochdale	3	1	1	1	3	4	0	4
Preston North End	3	1	0	2	3	5	0	3

Final

Tue, Aug 15, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.

Blackburn Rovers	1 (Kennedy)
Blackpool	0
Blackburn Rovers	Gennoe; Atkins, Dawson, Finnigan, Hendry (sub. May), Hill, Skinner, Hildersley, Kennedy, Stapleton, Wilcox. subs not used: Sulley, Johnrose, Oliver, Collier.
Blackpool	McIlhargey; Burgess, Morgan, Gore, Briggs, Matthews, Methven, Madden (sub. Bradshaw), Garner (sub. Sinclair), Coughlin, Wright. subs not used: Gayle, Dunn, Eyres.
Referee	T Fitzharris, of Bolton.
Attendance	4,685 (receipts £17,001.25).

1990-91		Number of entrants: 8.		
Group A				
Sat	Aug 11	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	0-0	2,118
Sat	Aug 11	Preston North End v. Rochdale	1-1	2,046
Tue	Aug 14	Bury v. Rochdale	1-1	1,360
Tue	Aug 14	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	4-2	4,327
Sat	Aug 18	Preston North End v. Bury	2-0	2,680
Sat	Aug 18	Rochdale v. Blackburn Rovers	0-2	1,483

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Preston North End	3	2	1	0	7	3	1	8
Blackburn Rovers	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Rochdale	3	0	2	1	2	4	0	2
Bury	3	0	2	1	1	3	0	2

Group B				
Sat	Aug 11	Burnley v. Blackpool	2-2	3,060
Sat	Aug 11	Wigan Athletic v. Bolton Wanderers	0-0	1,837
Tue	Aug 14	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool	2-0	1,588
Tue	Aug 14	Burnley v. Wigan Athletic	3-1	2,380
Sat	Aug 18	Bolton Wanderers v. Burnley	3-0	2,649
Sat	Aug 18	Wigan Athletic v. Blackpool	3-2	862

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Bolton Wanderers	3	2	1	0	5	0	1	8
Burnley	3	1	1	1	5	6	1	5
Wigan Athletic	3	1	1	1	4	5	1	5
Blackpool	3	0	1	2	4	7	0	1

Final

Tue, Aug 21, at Burnden Park, Bolton.

Bolton Wanderers	2 (Reeves 2)
Preston North End	1 (Shaw)
Bolton Wanderers	Felgate; Brown, Cowdrill, Green, Came, Winstanley, Storer (sub. Burke), Thompson, Reeves, Philliskirk, Darby.
Preston North End	Kelly; Senior (sub. Eaves), Swann, Greaves, Flynn, Wrightson, Williams, Bogie, Thomas, Shaw, Harper.
Referee	PW Harrison, of Oldham.
Attendance	4,585 (receipts £20,411.60).

1991-92		Number of entrants: 8.			
Group A					
Sat	Aug 3	Preston North End v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	3,662	
Sat	Aug 3	Burnley v. Bury	0-2	2,966	
Tue	Aug 6	Burnley v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	8,473	
Tue	Aug 6	Preston North End v. Bury	6-1	1,569	
Sat	Aug 10	Bury v. Blackburn Rovers	1-0	2,063	
Sat	Aug 10	Preston North End v. Burnley	5-1	2,473	

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Preston North End	3	2	1	0	12	3	2	9
Bury	3	2	0	1	4	6	0	6
Blackburn Rovers	3	0	2	1	2	3	0	2
Burnley	3	0	1	2	2	8	0	1

Group B					
Sat	Aug 3	Wigan Athletic v. Blackpool	1-1	1,245	
Mon	Aug 5	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	0-1	1,468	
Wed	Aug 7	Blackpool v. Bolton Wanderers	1-2	1,573	
Wed	Aug 7	Rochdale v. Wigan Athletic	2-3	953	
Sat	Aug 10	Bolton Wanderers v. Wigan Athletic	0-1	1,302	
Sat	Aug 10	Rochdale v. Blackpool	2-1	950	

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Wigan Athletic	3	2	1	0	5	3	1	8
Rochdale	3	2	0	1	5	4	0	6
Bolton Wanderers	3	1	0	2	2	3	0	3
Blackpool	3	0	1	2	3	5	0	1

Final

Tue, Aug 13, at Springfield Park, Wigan.

Wigan Athletic	4	(Daley, Rimmer, Powell, Patterson)
Preston North End	1	(Jepson)
Wigan Athletic	Adkins; Appleton, Parkinson, Atherton, Patterson, Langley, Powell, Rimmer, Daley, Worthington, Griffiths.	
Preston North End	Farnworth; Senior, Williams (sub. Ashcroft), Swann (sub. Cartwright), Flynn, Wrightson, Thompson, Joyce, Jepson, Shaw, James.	
Referee	DB Allison, of Lancaster.	
Attendance	3,315 (receipts £12,655.30).	

1992-93		Number of entrants: 6.			
Group A					
Mon	Jul 27	Preston North End v. Blackpool	1-1	3,274	
Wed	Jul 29	Burnley v. Preston North End	5-1	3,217	
Sat	Aug 1	Blackpool v. Burnley	1-1	2,791	

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Burnley	2	1	1	0	6	2	1	5
Blackpool	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
Preston North End	2	0	1	1	2	6	0	1

Group B						
Mon	Jul 27	Bolton Wanderers v. Bury	0-0	1,747	
Wed	Jul 29	Bury v. Rochdale	1-0	320	(at Stainton Park, Radcliffe)
Sat	Aug 1	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	0-0	1,036	

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Bury	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	4
Bolton Wanderers	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Rochdale	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1

Final

Tue, Aug 11, at Turf Moor, Burnley.

Burnley	2	(Randall, Painter)
Bury	2	(Scott, Robinson)

Burnley winners on penalties 4-3.

Burnley	Williams; Measham, Jakub, Randall, Pender, Monington, Harper (sub. McKenzie), Deary, Painter, Conroy, Hewitt. subs not used: Farrell, Yates, Sonner, Howarth.
Bury	Kelly; Anderson, Robertson, Hughes, Valentine, Knill, Lyons (sub. Stevens), Robinson, Hulme, Kearney, Scott. subs not used: Gorton, Emmett, Greenhalgh, Wilson.
Referee	IA Hendrick, of Preston.
Attendance	5,198 (receipts £29,797.00).

1993-94		Number of entrants: 8.		
Group A				
Fri	Jul 23	Rochdale v. Bolton Wanderers	3-4	1,977
Sat	Jul 24	Burnley v. Blackpool	4-3	5,740
Tue	Jul 27	Blackpool v. Rochdale	2-1	1,443
Tue	Jul 27	Burnley v. Bolton Wanderers	0-1	6,001
Fri	Jul 30	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackpool	1-3	3,091
Sat	Jul 31	Rochdale v. Burnley	4-1	2,656

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackpool	3	2	0	1	8	6	2	8
Bolton Wanderers	3	2	0	1	6	6	1	7
Rochdale	3	1	0	2	8	7	1	4
Burnley	3	1	0	2	5	8	1	4

Group B				
Sat	Jul 24	Bury v. Wigan Athletic	1-1	821
Sat	Jul 24	Preston North End v. Manchester United	3-1	6,694
Tue	Jul 27	Bury v. Manchester United	1-5	1,783
Tue	Jul 27	Wigan Athletic v. Preston North End	2-1	1,531
Sat	Jul 31	Preston North End v. Bury	2-0	2,628
Sat	Jul 31	Wigan Athletic v. Manchester United	0-2	1,773

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Manchester United	3	2	0	1	8	4	1	7
Preston North End	3	2	0	1	6	3	1	7
Wigan Athletic	3	1	1	1	3	4	0	4
Bury	3	0	1	2	2	8	0	1

Final

Tue, Aug 10, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.

Blackpool	1 (Griffiths(pen))
Manchester United	0
Blackpool	Martin; Davies, Cook, Horner, Stoneman, Gore, Watson, Robinson (sub. Leitch), Bamber, Bonner, Griffiths. subs not used: Gouck, Beech, Quinn, Capleton.
Manchester United	Sealey; Martin, Blackmore, Phelan (sub. Butt), Whitworth, McGibbon, Ferguson, Davies, Dublin, Wallace (sub. Scholes), Sharpe.
Referee	EJ Parker, of Preston.
Attendance	6,612 (receipts £42,085.10).

1994-95		Number of entrants: 8.		
Group A				
Sat	Jul 23	Burnley v. Bury	1-2	3,373
Sat	Jul 23	Rochdale v. Manchester United	3-2	4,290
Tue	Jul 26	Burnley v. Manchester United	2-3	4,803
Tue	Jul 26	Rochdale v. Bury	2-0	1,370
Sat	Jul 30	Rochdale v. Burnley	0-2	2,024
Sun	Jul 31	Bury v. Manchester United	4-0	4,511

Group A - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Bury	3	2	0	1	6	3	1	7
Rochdale	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	7
Manchester United	3	1	0	2	5	9	1	4
Burnley	3	1	0	2	5	5	0	3

Group B				
Sat	Jul 23	Southport v. Blackpool	1-4	1,287
Sat	Jul 23	Wigan Athletic v. Preston North End	2-1	855
Tue	Jul 26	Blackpool v. Preston North End	1-1	4,757
Tue	Jul 26	Southport v. Wigan Athletic	3-2	704
Sat	Jul 30	Blackpool v. Wigan Athletic	2-0	1,722
Sat	Jul 30	Southport v. Preston North End	0-1	1,609

Group B - Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Blackpool	3	2	1	0	7	2	1	8
Preston North End	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Southport	3	1	0	2	4	7	1	4
Wigan Athletic	3	1	0	2	4	6	0	3

Final

Fri, Aug 5, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.

Blackpool	1 (Griffiths)
Bury	0
Blackpool	Sealey; Brown, Burke, Bonner, Horner, Gore, Watson (sub. Bamber), Gouck, Quinn, Ellis, Griffiths (sub. Cook). subs not used: Martin, Beech, Stoneman.
Bury	Kelly; Cross, Stanislaus, Mague, Lucketti, Jackson, Mulligan, Carter, Johnrose (sub. Rigby), Reid, Pugh. subs not used: Anderson, Daws, Birks, Bracey.
Referee	EJ Parker, of Preston.
Attendance	3,150 (receipts £16,945.04).

1995-96		Number of entrants: 6.								
Group A										
Sat	Jul 22	Southport v. Burnley							1-0	1,372
Tue	Jul 25	Burnley v. Wigan Athletic							0-3	2,396
Sat	Jul 29	Wigan Athletic v. Southport							4-2	1,468
Group A - Final Table										
		P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts	
Wigan Athletic		2	2	0	0	7	2	2	8	
Southport		2	1	0	1	3	4	0	3	
Burnley		2	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	
Group B										
Sat	Jul 22	Preston North End v. Rochdale							2-2	2,390
Tue	Jul 25	Blackpool v. Preston North End							1-0	4,320
Sat	Jul 29	Rochdale v. Blackpool							0-1	1,265
Group B - Final Table										
		P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts	
Blackpool		2	2	0	0	2	0	0	6	
Preston North End		2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	
Rochdale		2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	
Final										
Tue, Aug 8, at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool.										
Blackpool		2 (Preece 2)								
Wigan Athletic		2 (Seba, Lightfoot)								
Blackpool winners on penalties 4-2.										
Blackpool		Capleton; R Brown, Barlow, Bradshaw, P Brown (sub. Bryan), Lydiate, Bonner, Quinn, Gouck, Ellis, Preece. subs not used: Darton, Mitchell, Parkinson, Martin.								
Wigan Athletic		Felgate; Butler, Farrell, Miller, Robertson, Martinez, Seba (sub. Tait), Lightfoot, Leonard, Doolan, Lyons (sub. Diaz). subs not used: Black, Carragher, Farnworth.								
Referee		AR Leake, of Darwen.								
Attendance		3,139 (net receipts £9,112.36).								

1996-97		Number of entrants: 6.								
Group A										
Sat	Jul 27	Southport v. Preston North End							2-2	1,200
Tue	Jul 30	Preston North End v. Wigan Athletic							1-0	2,060
Sat	Aug 3	Southport v. Wigan Athletic							1-2	1,000
Group A - Final Table										
		P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts	
Preston North End		2	1	1	0	3	2	0	4	
Wigan Athletic		2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3	
Southport		2	0	1	1	3	4	0	1	
Group B										
Sat	Jul 27	Morecambe v. Blackpool							2-3	1,649
Tue	Jul 30	Blackpool v. Rochdale							1-1	1,500
Sat	Aug 3	Morecambe v. Rochdale							2-1	620
Group B - Final Table										
		P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts	
Blackpool		2	1	1	0	4	3	1	5	
Morecambe		2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3	
Rochdale		2	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	
Final										
Tue, Oct 8, at Deepdale, Preston.										
Preston North End		2 (Bryson, Bennett)								
Blackpool		1 (Allardyce)								
Preston North End		Moilanen; Sparrow, Sharp, McDonald, Patterson, Moyes, Gage, Bryson, Reeves (sub. Grant), Bennett, Atkinson. subs not used: Trundle, O'Hanlon, McKenna, Brooks.								
Blackpool		Heighton; Hall, Barlow, Allardyce, Carlisle, Onwere, Cardon (sub. Ashcroft), Haddow, Preece, Thorpe, Philpott. subs not used: Hooks, Symons.								
Referee		EK Wolstenholme, of Blackburn.								
Attendance		3,913.								

1997-98: No Competition

1998-99 and 2004-05

1998-99			Number of entrants: 4.			
Semi-Finals						
1	Tue	Jul 21	Rochdale v. Oldham Athletic	4-0	902	also Charity Rose Bowl match.
2	Tue	Jul 21	Wigan Athletic v. Bury	1-0	1,727	
3rd Place Play-Off						
1	Tue	Jul 28	Bury v. Oldham Athletic	1-1	1,503	Bury winners on penalties 4-1.
Final						

Tue, Jul 28, at Springfield Park, Wigan.

Wigan Athletic	3	(Bradshaw(pen), Jones 2)
Rochdale	1	(Lancashire)
Wigan Athletic	Bishop; Green, Bradshaw, Griffiths, McGibbon, Rogers (sub. Porter), Lee, Kilford (sub. Martinez), Jones, Lowe (sub. Warne), Jenkinson. subs not used: Sharp, Naylor.	
Rochdale	Edwards; Sparrow, Stokes, Farrell, Monington, Johnson, Jones (sub. Carden), Lancashire (sub. Painter), Leonard, Peake, Stuart. subs not used: Bailey, Barlow, Bayliss.	
Referee	EK Wolstenholme, of Blackburn.	
Attendance	2,191.	

1999-2000 to 2003-04: No Competition

2004-05			Number of entrants: 8.		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Sep 20	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	3-2	
2	Mon	Aug 16	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	2-2	Bolton Wanderers winners on penalties 5-3.
3	Mon	Sep 6	Burnley v. Rochdale	1-2	played behind closed doors.
4	Wed	Oct 6	Oldham Athletic v. Bury	3-3	Bury winners on penalties 5-4.
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Feb 14	Blackpool v. Bury	1-1	Bury winners on penalties 3-2.
2	Wed	Jan 12	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	0-1	
Final					

Mon, May 9, at Spotland, Rochdale.

Rochdale	1	(Moyo-Modise)
Bury	0	
Rochdale	Woodhall; McDonagh, Murray, Kitchen, Liptrot, Bowden, Barry, Allen, Mangan, Moyo-Modise, Thompson. subs not used: Williams, Greenwood, Kay, Buckley.	
Bury	Collinge; Parrish, Buchanan, Barrow, Hitchen, Cartledge, Theophanous, Quigley, Speight, Adams, Collet. subs not used: Burke, Pauls, Grundy, Khan, Mainwaring.	
Referee	ND Swarbrick, of Preston.	
Attendance	503.	

Official Programme
Of Bolton Wanderers
Football Club

THE LANCASHIRE SENIOR CUP
FIRST ROUND

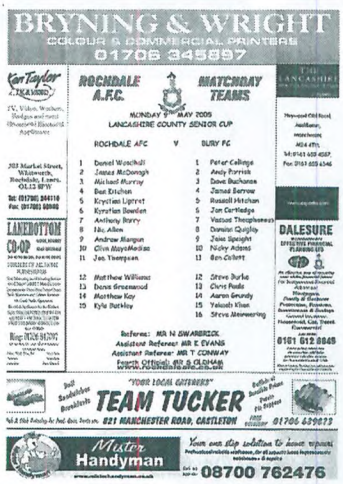
Issue 1 20P

Special Cup Edition

BOLTON WANDERERS
-v-
Preston North End

County Ground, Leyland
Monday, 16 August 2004
Kick off - 7:00pm

The first game when the competition re-started.



The teamsheet for the 2004-05 Final

2005-06			Number of entrants: 8.		
Round 1					
1	Mon	Aug 22	Bolton Wanderers v. Blackburn Rovers	1-1	Bolton Wanderers winners on penalties 3-2.
2	Tue	Sep 13	Oldham Athletic v. Manchester United	2-1	
3	Mon	Nov 7	Preston North End v. Blackpool	3-1	
4	Mon	Sep 19	Rochdale v. Bury	0-1	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	Mar 20	Bolton Wanderers v. Preston North End	1-4	
2	Wed	Jan 4	Oldham Athletic v. Bury	4-2	

Final

Tue, Jul 25, at the County Ground, Leyland.

Oldham Athletic	0	
Preston North End	0	

Oldham Athletic winners on penalties 7-6.

Oldham Athletic	Pogliacomi; Eardley, Edwards, Stam (sub. Haining), Swailes, Wood, McDonald (sub. Taylor), Rocastle, Wellens, Hall (sub. Porter), Liddell (sub. Warne). sub not used: Griffin.
Preston North End	C Neal; St Ledger, Hill, Wilson, Chilvers, Whaley, Stock, McCormack, Dichio, Hibbert (sub. Parrillon), L Neal. subs not used: Beattie, Hinchliffe, S Mawene.
Referee	K Evans, of Manchester.
Attendance	400.

2006-07			Number of entrants: 9 (7 clubs given a bye to Round 1).		
Preliminary Round					
1	Mon	Aug 21	Preston North End v. Manchester United	2-7	
Round 1					
1	Mon	Oct 23	Blackpool v. Blackburn Rovers	0-1	
2	Wed	Sep 20	Bolton Wanderers v. Manchester United	1-0	
3	Wed	Sep 27	Bury v. Oldham Athletic	1-7	
4	Mon	Dec 18	Rochdale v. Accrington Stanley	2-3	
Semi-Finals					
1	Mon	May 7	Accrington Stanley v. Bolton Wanderers	1-1	Bolton Wanderers winners on penalties 4-3.
2	Mon	Apr 23	Oldham Athletic v. Blackburn Rovers	1-2	

Final

Tue, Jul 31, at the County Ground, Leyland.

Blackburn Rovers	6	(Garner 3, De Vita, Taylor, Judge)
Bolton Wanderers	2	(Brooks, Sissons)

Blackburn Rovers	Fielding; Kane, Taylor, Hodge, Winnard, Nolan, Judge, Griffiths, Garner, De Vita (sub. Clarke), Peter (sub. Olsson). subs not used: Arestidou, Pezzoni, Haworth.
Bolton Wanderers	Kazimierczak: Basham (sub. Wolze), Woolfe, Gbemie, Ellis, Cassidy, Thompson, Sissons, Obadeyi, Burns (sub. Sheridan), Brooks (sub. Ward). subs not used: Lainton, McDonald.
Referee	G Salisbury, of Preston.
Attendance	189.

The trophy awarded to the 2006-07 winners

2007-08		Number of entrants: 12.
Round 1		
1	Blackburn Rovers v. Morecambe	
2	Blackpool v. Accrington Stanley	
3	Bolton Wanderers v. Rochdale	
4	Wigan Athletic v. Bury	
	Liverpool, Manchester United, Oldham Athletic, Preston North End - byes.	
Round 2		
1	Blackburn Rovers or Morecambe v. Bolton Wanderers or Rochdale	
2	Liverpool v. Wigan Athletic or Bury	
3	Manchester United v. Oldham Athletic	
4	Preston North End v. Blackpool or Accrington Stanley	

The book was printed before the 2007-08 games were played.

THE LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP

RULES FOR COMPETITION, 1879

1 - The entire control and management of the above competition shall be vested in the Challenge Cup Committee of the Lancashire Football Association.

2 - The Cup shall be called "THE LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE CUP."

3 - The competition for the Cup shall be annual, and shall be open to all the registered clubs of the Association, subject to the approval of the Challenge Cup Committee.

4 - The competing teams shall number eleven players each, and while the players of each team may be changed, no individual shall play for more than one club during any one season.

5 - The duration of each match shall be one hour and a half: and the ball used shall measure 27 inches and not more than 28 inches in circumference.

6 - The names of the clubs entered for competition shall be placed by the Challenge Cup Committee in one lot, and shall be drawn from such lot in couples at a time. These couples shall compete with each other and the names of the winning clubs shall be placed in a lot, drawn in couples, and compete as in the first tie, and so on until the final tie is played, when the winning club shall hold the Cup for the current year.

7 - In the event of a club getting a "bye" in any of the drawings, the Challenge Cup Committee, at the next drawing, shall first draw a club to play against it from the lot, and then proceed in drawing couples, vide Rule 6. No club shall receive more than one "bye" in the season.

8 - Any club refusing or failing to play the club against which it has been drawn within the time intimated to it, and without sufficient reasons for so doing, shall be adjudged to have lost the match. In the event of two clubs playing a drawn game, they shall again meet, and should either club refuse to compete, such club shall be thrown out of the competition. In case they should play two drawn games, both clubs shall be entitled to play in the next round.

9 - The lots shall be drawn, and the Competition Matches played, as the Challenge Cup Committee of the Association may determine; and, immediately after each drawing, the Secretary shall intimate to each of the clubs drawn, the name of the club it is drawn against, and the time within which the tie is to be played.

10 - Notice of the result of each match, shall be sent by the winning club, or in the event of a "Drawn Match" by both of the competing clubs, so as to be in the hands of the Secretary within three days of the date on which the match has been played. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be subject to a fine of 5/-, or in default shall be struck out of the competition.

11 - Unless otherwise mutually arranged, competing clubs shall toss for choice of ground, except in the two last ties, the ground for which, shall be chosen by the Challenge Cup Committee. In drawn matches, the club who lost the toss in the first instance shall have the choice of ground for the second match. All matches to be played on private grounds.

12 - The competing clubs in all but the two last ties of each season, shall appoint the Umpires and Referees, but in the two last ties, they shall be appointed by the Committee. Should these clubs not be able to agree in the appointment of a Referee, they shall apply to the Secretary of the Association.

13 - The Referee in any of the competition matches shall not belong to either of the competing clubs; and in the case of the last two ties neither the Umpire nor Referee.

14 - On points of fact connected with the play going on the decisions of the Umpires and Referee shall be given by the sound of a whistle. Should the Umpires not agree, the Referee shall immediately give his decision which shall be final. On questions of interpretation of Rules or Laws of the Game an appeal may be made to the Challenge Cup Committee, but the Referee's decision must be acted on in the field, although under protest.

15 - Protests and appeals must be formally intimated to the Referee and the competing club at the time that the violation takes place, and must be lodged by the protesting club with the Secretary of the Association within three days thereafter.

16 - All questions of eligibility, qualification of competitors, interpretation of the rules or laws, shall be referred to the Challenge Cup Committee of the Association, whose decision shall be final.

17 - Should either of the two clubs in connection with the protested cup tie have a member on the Challenge Cup Committee, the said member shall not be eligible to sit on Committee while the said protest is being considered.

18 - When the winning club shall have been ascertained the Secretary of the Association shall hand the Cup to its representatives on receiving a document to the following effect, and subscribed by them:- "We, A.B., Secretary of the Z.Y. Club, and C.D.E.F. and G.H., members of and representing the said Club which has now been declared to have won the Lancashire Football Association Challenge Cup, and the same having been delivered to us by J.K., the Secretary of the said Association; do hereby on behalf of the said club, and individually and collectively engage to return the same to the said J.K., or Secretary of the Association for the time being, on or before the first day of April next in like good order and condition, and in accordance with the conditions of the annexed Rules, to which also we have subscribed our respective names."

19 - The President and Treasurer of the Association shall be, for all intents and purposes, the legal holders of the Cup, in trust for the Association.

20 - In addition to the Cup, the Association shall present to the players in the final tie Medals or Badges.

21 - The Challenge Cup Committee of the Association shall have power to alter or add to the above rules as they from time to time shall deem expedient.

22 - That in all Competition Matches with the exception of the last two ties, the Association take one fourth of the gross receipts, and the balance after paying all expenses be equally divided between the two competing clubs. In the two last ties, the Association to take all and pay all.

June, 1879.

PRESTON NORTH ENDS' SUSPENSION AND REPRIEVE, 1888

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

79, Preston New Road,
Blackburn,
4th May, 1888.

Sir,

Lancashire Association and Preston North End Club.

I have to inform you that my Committee met last night and passed the following resolution:—

> "Although this Committee is still of the unanimous opinion that the conduct of the Preston North End Football Club was objectionable under its rules in refusing to play Accrington in the Final Tie for the Lancashire Cup, still, after the decision of the Football Association, the period of suspension passed by this Committee, and which has been in force since April 23rd, be hereby rescinded as and from this date."

I am also requested to call your attention to the Association's case, which up to the present time has not been published. Of course you are well aware that the dispute arose through Preston North End refusing to play the Final Tie of the Challenge Cup at Blackburn, and the facts are here briefly recapitulated.

Before making arrangements to play the Tie, letters were sent to Mr. Hartley, of Accrington and Mr. Sudell asking for any suggestions they might wish to make. Accrington left the matter in the hands of the Association, and Preston North End did not reply, neither did Mr. Sudell attend the meeting held at Liverpool on the 3rd April, to fix the ground, this business being stated on the agenda sent to him as a member of the Executive.* The Committee had several grounds offered, but they thought that the interests of the three parties concerned would be best served by playing the match at Blackburn, which is almost midway between the two places; is adapted for great crowds; and its accessories are as complete as any in the county. The thought that Preston North End would object to Blackburn spectators never entered the head of anyone present. On notice being sent that Blackburn was selected, Mr. Sudell wrote stating there was a very strong objection to play at Blackburn, on account of the behaviour of Blackburn spectators, and asked if nothing could be done.

A meeting of the County Committee was held on the 12th April, at which Mr. Sudell represented Preston North End. He stated that if the Committee insisted upon the match being played at Blackburn, they would play; but they had had such an experience of the Blackburn spectators that it would not be fair to their *supporters*. He further said they had no objection to the ground itself, but he thought in the interests of the game it had better be removed to some other town, and concluded his remarks by saying, "We have had some pecuniary benefit, and we are honourably bound to go through with the competition." The Committee did not think Mr. Sudell had adduced sufficient reasons for not playing at Blackburn. The members present know most of the grounds in the county, and did not consider the behaviour of Blackburn spectators any worse than other towns. They therefore declined to alter their arrangements.

To show the inconsistency of Preston North End, at the close of the meeting, and before leaving the house where it was held, Mr. Sudell agreed with three members of the Blackburn Olympic Club to play a match in *Blackburn* on 9th May (the day the Prince of Wales will visit the town.) It may here be stated that this match has since been cancelled; but surely the feeling against Blackburn spectators could not have been so great, or, a few minutes after Mr. Sudell had been objecting to play a Cup Tie in the town, he would never have arranged a match to be played in Blackburn. In addition to the above, Preston North End had entered into a combination of Clubs, including Blackburn Rovers, which would render it imperative for Preston North End to play on the Rovers ground next season.

On the 13th April, Mr. Sudell telegraphed that individual members of his Committee were in favour of scratching, and he would put off formal meeting to see what could be done; which will account for no further action being taken until 17th April, when Mr. Sudell again telegraphed, "Decided to withdraw from Membership of Lancashire Association and scratch for Cup, but willing to play Accrington for benefit of Association at any other place than Blackburn.—SUDELL." On the following day this was confirmed by letter from Mr. Dewhurst.

Following this a meeting of the Committee was held, and the previous decision reaffirmed. Several letters and telegrams followed, and Preston North End did not play in the Final Tie.

* Mr. Sudell states that he treated this as a private letter, but it was given in evidence that nearly all the correspondence between the Lancashire Football Association and Preston North End was addressed to Mr. Sudell.

On the 23rd April the Lancashire Committee met, and in considering their position, decided that they had the power to deal with the Club under Rule 7 of the Association Rules, and it was their unanimous decision that the conduct of Preston North End Club was objectionable in connection with a Cup Tie within the meaning of this Rule. Rule 22 states that any Club infringing Rule 7 shall be liable to suspension for such time as the Executive shall think fit. This being the construction placed upon these Rules by the Committee, they passed the resolution suspending the Club.

In laying the matter before the Football Association, Mr. Woolfall distinctly informed the Council that the period of the suspension was not a matter over which the County Committee had any particular feeling. Their desire was to get an opinion upon the principle, which is this—Can a Club scratch in a Final Tie, and its conduct be not considered objectionable, after having run an equal chance with the Association of any benefit that might accrue to either through taking part in the competition? If Clubs cannot be compelled to carry out engagements mutually entered into between themselves and their Association, or suffer a penalty for not doing so, then it is impossible for Associations to carry on their business. It would also be a money premium on unsportsmanlike conduct.

The defence offered by Preston North End was based (1) upon Cup Rule 10, which provides that "should either or both Clubs refuse to compete, one or both shall be thrown out of the competition," which is the penalty for not playing as directed. (2) That their conduct could not be considered objectionable under Association Rule 7. (3) That they had withdrawn from membership of the Association, and consequently the Lancashire Association had no jurisdiction over them.

When the County Committee considered the defence of the Preston North End, they discussed (1) the validity of their objection to play at Blackburn, and considering that they at the same time made a match to be played at Blackburn on 9th May, this, together with the local knowledge of the members present at the meeting, who did not think the antagonism as represented by Preston North End existed, forced them to the conclusion that they had not good and sufficient reasons for refusing to play at Blackburn. (2) The Committee further considered that Preston North End, by playing in the competition up to the Final Tie, had received some pecuniary benefit for so doing; had thrown four Clubs out of the competition; and, as Mr. Sudell previously admitted, were honourably bound to go through with the competition; and having scratched without good and sufficient reasons, their conduct was objectionable under Rule 7. (3) That a Club could not withdraw from membership to escape punishment. (On this point the Football Association support the County.)

When the defence was considered by the Football Association, they decided that the loss of the Cup was the full penalty for scratching, in the absence of any Rule to the contrary. They did not construe the Cup Rules and the Association Rules together, although Association Rule 7 states, "If the conduct of a Club is objectionable *in Cup Ties, or in connection therewith*, the Executive shall have full power to deal with the same." Neither did they express any opinion on the point whether it was right or wrong for a Club to play in the Competition while they run their chance of their own benefit, and to scratch when the Association carry out their Rules (13 and 24) by fixing a neutral ground and are about to receive what forms a considerable part of their year's income.

This is the point where the decisions of the two Associations differ. The County Association said the action of the North End was wrong, and came within the meaning of Association Rule 7, and had already passed a resolution to that effect: the Football Association confined themselves entirely to the Cup Rules and passed a resolution that the Preston North End were within their rights according to Cup Rule 10,* but did not, as requested by the County, express an opinion on the conduct of the Club.

On account of the decision of the Football Association, the Committee met last night and passed the resolution at the head of this letter.

The Committee consider the importance of the case is such that the Clubs, members of this Association, should have the facts placed before them, and have ordered this document to be issued.

Signed, on behalf of the Executive of the Lancashire Football Association,

R. P. GREGSON,

SECRETARY.

N.B.—Nearly all the published reports of the meeting of the Football Association Council give the result of the voting as 15 to 4 against the County, whereas 9 voted for the resolution carried and 7 for Mr. Crump's amendment; but when the resolution was put as a substantive motion it was carried by 15 to 4. (Messrs. Duxbury, Sudell, and Gregson were not in the room.)

* This the County believe is the first time the Football Association have taken this view of the subject and separated the Cup Rules from the Association Rules. The Council have, on hearing protests upon Cup Ties, thrown Clubs out of the competition and suspended them in addition.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The coverage of the Lancashire Cup competition has varied considerably over the years in Lancashire newspapers. For practical reasons I have not referenced in detail individual sources, but these are the newspapers that have been particularly useful - Accrington Times; Blackburn Standard; Blackburn Times; Blackpool Evening Gazette; Blackpool Times; Bolton Evening News; Bolton Evening Telegraph; Bolton Guardian; Burnley Express and Advertiser; Bury Times; Darwen News; Football Field; Lancashire Evening Post; Lancashire Evening Telegraph; Liverpool Courier; Liverpool Daily Post; Liverpool Echo; Manchester Evening Chronicle; Manchester Evening News; Morecambe Visitor; Oldham Chronicle; Preston Guardian; Preston Herald; Rochdale Observer; Southport Guardian; Southport Visiter; Wigan Observer.

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A photograph taken at the 1928 Lancashire Cup Final. Lancashire FA officials stand behind the Football League First Division Championship Cup (won by Everton), the FA Cup (won by Blackburn Rovers), the Football League Second Division Championship Shield (won by Manchester City) and the Lancashire Cup (to be won on the day by Manchester City).

The Lancashire FA's Senior Challenge Cup is one of the oldest tournaments in English football. This detailed account lists all the clubs that have taken part and includes the result of every game.

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